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One of the first trains in Attakapas, circa 1880



The New Iberia depot about 1912.

# BUILDING SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA'S FIRST RAILROAD: THE YEARS OF ANTICIPATION

by Keith S. Hambrick

One of the most important events in the early history of Southwest Louisiana was the completion of a railroad through the region in 1800. This new mode of transportation opened up the area for rapid settlement and transformed several of the small villages of 1880 into thriving, substantial cities by 1890. Lake Charles, for example, was a small town of around 800 residents in 1880 but by 1890 its population had increased to 3,442.

There had been talk of building a railroad through the region since the 1850s. On March 12, 1852, "An Act for the organization of Corporations for works of public improvement and utility," passed by the Louisiana Legislature, allowed the organization of the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad (NOO&GW), commonly called the Opelousas Road, for the purpose of building a railroad to Texas. Its capital stock was to be \$3 million.

On April 22, 1853, by "An Act to incorporate the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad Company," the legislature officially recognized the company's charter and the capital stock was increased to \$6 million.

The NOO&GW was authorized to build a road from the New Orleans area, through southern Louisiana to Vermilionville (present-day Lafayette), then extend its line northward to Opelousas and then to Natchitoches. From there it would run to a point on the Texas border called Thompson's Bluff which was located a short distance above the 31st parallel, then extend in a northerly direction to the 32nd parallel.

This proposed road was to establish a trade link with a large area of south and central Louisiana and also serve as a feeder line for a prospective southern trunk line that was going to extend through northern Louisiana, enter Texas near the 32nd parallel, run to El Paso and from there on to California. A connection with this proposed Pacific route would allow New Orleans to tap the commercial avenues of middle and northern Texas.

Products from southern Texas were already being brought to the Crescent City by ship from Galveston, so a railroad to that area, which would extend from Vermilionville through Calcasieu Parish and East Texas, was not discussed at this time.

The first public proposal of a route through Calcasieu of which there is a record came in late July, 1857. A knowledgeable railroad writer who used the initials "B. J. S." wrote three long letters outlining his plans for a general network of Louisiana railroads and published them in the financially oriented *New Orleans Commercial Bulletin*.

B. J. S. can be identified as Bernard Janin Sage, a well-known New Orleans attorney. In February, 1862, Sage was elected to the board of directors of the New Orleans and Texas Railroad, a New Orleans based company that was planning a road to Texas; a month later, the *Opelousas Courier* reported that B. J. Sage had come to St. Landry to enlist planter support for the Texas road and that he had been promoting the idea for a number of years. Sage wrote several letters to the New Orleans papers during the 1850's and 1860's always signing them "B. J. S."

In his 1857 letters, he proposed a change in the NOO&GW's route which he had been considering since the spring of 1854. He believed that either the Opelousas Road's charter should be changed or that a separate company be formed in order to construct a road not to Vermilionville and Opelousas as originally planned, but to New Iberia and then on through upper Vermilion Parish and the middle of Calcasieu to Texas.

By 1857, the NOO&GW had constructed and placed in service a line from the New Orleans area to Berwick Bay. In September, 1856, the Texas Legislature had chartered the Sabine and Galveston Bay Railroad and Lumber Company to build a road from Houston to Sabine Pass—terminus later changed to Orange. Sage's proposed line through Calcasieu would connect with this Houston road. Houston was just then emerging as a Texas railroad center so a link with that small city would ensure communication with many other parts of that state and eventually with other states.

Sage also wanted the Calcasieu route because it would be a shorter line, less expensive per mile to construct since it would run through relatively level prairie land, and a region nearer to New Orleans would be developed. He maintained that the Opelousas area could best be served by another railroad, the Baton Rouge, Grosse Tete and Opelousas, and that the resulting loss of St. Landry monetary support for the NOO&GW could be made up by the people of Vermilion and Calcasieu parishes.

The reasons presented for the Calcasieu route were all valid arguments, but the assertion that the lack of St. Landry support could be replaced by Vermilion and Calcasieu was not. The 1860 free population of both parishes combined was considerably less than that of St. Landry.

Several days after the publication of Sage's third letter, he was answered in a lengthy letter also published in the *Commercial Bulletin* and written by G. W. R. Bayley, chief engineer of the NOO&GW. Bayley steadfastly denied that St. Landry could be better served by the Baton Rouge, Grosse Tete and Opelousas and gave several reasons supporting his position. He did admit, however, that the NOO&GW had been aware of the advantages of a road through Calcasieu for some time and that a survey of it had already been ordered several months earlier. It was a good route and would eventually be constructed but only as "a branch of the Great Western." The original road through Vermilionville, Opelousas and Natchitoches was still thought best.

The survey, or more likely a familiarizing trip, was made by Bayley sometime within the next two years. In March, 1859, he reported to the president of the NOO&GW that the route to Texas through Calcasieu by way of Vermilionville (not New Iberia) was slightly over 116 miles in length and that it was definitely "favorable for the cheap construction of a railroad" because it would transverse mostly flat prairie land.

The seventh annual report of the NOO&GW issued that same month stated that the branch through Calcasieu was "of very great importance" so the directors were evidently giving serious consideration to the route. Everyone was proposing grandiose railroad plans at this time, but securing the necessary funds to put those plans into effect was extremely difficult and in many cases impossible. The NOO&GW was not even financially able to build its original planned line much less begin work on a Calcasieu branch. It was able to grade most of a roadbed to Vermilionville and Opelousas before the Civil War but did not lay rails.

While the NOO&GW was considering a Calcasieu route, the Sabine and Galveston Bay Railroad and Lumber Company began making plans of its own. In early 1859, that company's president, Col. A. M. Gentry, petitioned the Louisiana Legislature for a charter allowing the formation of a Louisiana division to build a line from Orange to New Iberia. The route had to run to New Iberia and terminate there for two reasons—the NOO&GW had the right to any line through

Vermilionville and also had the right to build a road to New Iberia from Berwick Bay. The final link to New Orleans, therefore, would have to be by way of the Opelousas Road.

On March 17, 1859, the Sabine and Galveston Bay received a charter granting it the executive right to the New Iberia-Texas route. The firm was just then changing its name to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad so the act recognized the new Louisiana company as the Texas and New Orleans Railroad, Louisiana Division (T&NO, LD). Many people in New Orleans and South Louisiana later reversed the words and called it the New Orleans and Texas Railroad to distinguish it even further from the parent company. Both the original T&NO and the new Louisiana section had A. M. Gentry as president, but different boards of directors.

Many Louisianians began promoting the T&NO because it was reported to have strong financial backing from English investors and the construction of its line seemed assured. Local financing would still be needed, however, so the New Orleans newspapers began running editorials urging the people to provide monetary support by buying T&NO stock issues.

The main argument used was that of increased trade—New Orleans could begin receiving large numbers of Texas cattle and sheep and great quantities of grains such as corn and wheat. Sugar could also be had and also tropical fruits including oranges and bananas.

The *Commercial Bulletin* tried to prod the people into action: "Is it worthwhile for a city like New Orleans to sit careless and indifferent upon her haunches, and let the trade of Texas—such a trade as that of Texas will be—escape from her, when she has but to put forth her hand and grasp it?"

It was believed at this time the T&NO could finish the Texas segment from Houston to Orange in about two years. Since Houston was so much smaller than the Crescent City, the *Commercial Bulletin* issued a challenge to the New Orleans citizenry: "If Houston can build a hundred miles in two years, cannot New Orleans build a hundred and fifty-six in the same time? We think it would be one of the best paying roads in the country." Although the arguments were received favorably, little New Orleans support was forthcoming.

By July, 1860, the line from New Iberia to Orange was reported to be under a contract for construction but the T&NO could do little about the Louisiana section until the line from Houston to Orange was completed. Construction on that road began in June, 1860, and was finished in July, 1861. During the Civil War, the Beaumont-Orange part of the line was damaged and never repaired until many years later.

While the T&NO was busy building toward Orange, the NOO&GW was trying to extend its road from Berwick Bay to New Iberia, a distance of 45 miles. Unfortunately that segment was never constructed because the NOO&GW could not secure enough financial support.

When the Civil War began, Louisiana and Confederate officials were aware that a trade connection with Texas had to be kept open because western and mid-western foodstuffs were no longer available to the South. A great quantity of pork, for instance, had been brought in from Cincinnati to feed the slaves, but this was now gone.

Many people believed that Texas could supply a large amount of beef and other meats as well as all sorts of grains and fruits. It was envisioned that Texas could become the South's "overflowing granary."

This was a good idea, but unfortunately for the Confederates, the Federals declared a blockade of the Louisiana and Texas coast in the summer of 1861. Running the blockade was haphazard at best, so regular shipments of goods and supplies from Texas were interrupted.

The only inland communication link between southern Texas and New Orleans at this time was a tri-weekly mail stage operated by J. B. Price from New Iberia to Lake Charles and then on to Niblett's Bluff on the Sabine River. From there boats journeyed a short distance to Orange.

In March, 1862, a route nearer the coast was opened. A stage ran 50 miles from New Iberia to Lopez ferry on the Mementau River. From there the steam packet *Cricket* traveled through Lake Arthur and Lake Mementau (Grand Lake) to Callahan's Bluff near the river's mouth. The route then ran along the beach ridge to the mouth of the Calcasieu River and from there along the beach to Sabine Pass. Steam boats sailed from the Pass to Beaumont where trains for Houston were available. This path through the coast country was said to be very "beautiful" and settled mainly by small planters and farmers.

It would have been a difficult task to transport great quantities of goods over an inland route so discussion continued of ways to assist construction of the Texas railroad. This culminated in the issuance of a new charter to the T&NO, LD on January 23, 1862. This company's name was changed to the more commonly used New Orleans and Texas Railroad Company, and it was given a land grant of six sections per mile of tract laid.

The distance from New Iberia to Orange was approximately 117 miles. One section equals 640 acres so the total grant would be around 449,280 acres. It was estimated by a committee organized to receive stock subscriptions for the company in New Orleans that this land could be sold for \$5 an acre. If such a sale was successful, it would bring in almost \$2,250,000. The approximate cost of building the Louisiana section of the railroad was thought to be \$2 million so the land grant would pay for the construction.

In order to attract the financial support that was needed immediately for construction to begin, the committee issued a glowing speculative account about the railroad's future. A low estimate of the line's gross earnings the first year would be in excess of \$1 1/2 million and it was believed that the company could pay a dividend of over thirty percent per annum.

The committee also used the usual argument of increased trade with Texas to spur the people's interest and since the Civil War was then being fought, a new argument was put forth. The *New Orleans Daily Picayune* stated that the construction of the road was now a military necessity, "a national want."

Its construction is like furnishing our Government with an army where she now has none. It will save the national treasury millions of money; preserve the lives of hundreds of our brave soldiers, and give ample facilities for the protection of many hundreds of miles of our seaboard and frontier. Were Texas attacked by the Federals, our brave Louisiana troops could speedily fly to her relief. Were New Orleans in danger, thousands of stalwart Texans in a few hours would be with us ready to deal death and destruction to a common foe.

Following the committee's lead, the New Orleans papers began earnestly promoting the idea of a Houston link once again and even B. J. Sage, the first to publicly call for a Calcasieu route, began a campaign. Writing the *Daily Picayune* in late January, 1862, he urged everyone to support the Texas road and reported that some construction supplies had already been secured. Sage praised New Orleans and Texas president A. M. Gentry as "one of the most active and enterprising railroad men in the Southwest," and also believed that the entire management of the road would "be careful, economical and prudent, but energetic" in the construction of the Louisiana section.

As a show of the company's interest in New Orleans, the election of its board of directors was held at the luxurious St. Charles Hotel in that city on February 22, 1862. (One of the directors elected was B. J. Sage.) At the meeting, it was disclosed that the company intended to ask planters along the proposed route to contribute slaves and whatever else they could in material and provisions. A "joint effort of the people" was going to be needed for a quick completion of the road.

In March, the railroad sent Sage on a trip through Southwest Louisiana to talk with the planters and on the grounds of "patriotism and self-interest" get them to release some of their slaves for work on the proposed line. The planters were told that they could expect to receive from \$400 to \$500 in NO&T stock for each able-bodied slave used. Since a large volume of business was expected when the road was completed, this stock would be extremely valuable. If a sufficient amount of slave labor could be found, E. L. Heriot, the railroad's chief engineer, believed that the Louisiana section could be completed in approximately six months.

By the latter part of March, the directors of the company were "pushing everything ahead" and the New Orleans papers were still doing their part at increasing stock subscriptions. The *Picayune*, for example, declared that owners of NO&T stock would be assured of dividends far exceeding "Those of any railroad in America or any other part of the world."

Those sustained efforts all proved successful. By March 30, 1862, the NO&T had received enough operating capital to begin calling for bids on grading, bridging and track laying. It was estimated that there would be about 1 1/2 million cubic yards of excavation and embankment and about 30,000 lineal feet of bridging to be done. The company stated that it was prepared to contract with one or more contractors to build the road, and was going to use from one to two thousand slaves. Transportation, provisions, and clothing for the slaves could be supplied by the company if the planters so desired.

In order to dispel any possible fears of the slaves and free workers becoming involved in a military action, and because the Federal blockade had reduced shipments of foodstuffs from Texas, the NO&T further stated that the proposed road would pass

through the Prairies of Calcasieu a region of country perfectly healthy and abundantly supplied with provisions, being adjacent to the great stock and grain growing region of Texas, and safe from invasion, the Coast of the Gulf being lined by an impassable marsh.

The road needed to be completed in the shortest possible time and the company said emphatically that "it will be done." And it possibly would have been done had not New Orleans fallen to the Federals about a month later. In late April, 1862, the Federal fleet commanded by David Farragut ran past Forts Jackson and St. Philip, the guardians of the Mississippi River approach to New Orleans, and on May 1, the Crescent City was formally occupied by Union troops. When this happened, any serious thoughts of a railroad to Texas were put aside until after the war.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, the blockade of the Louisiana and Texas coasts was lifted and steamers once again sailed between Galveston and Berwick Bay. At Berwick, goods and passengers were loaded aboard New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western (NOO&GW) trains and taken to the Crescent City.

Just after the war, South Louisiana residents were served by Gulf schooners and by a stage line, Alexander & Co., which appears to have begun operations around November, 1865. At that

time, the stages ran from Niblett's Bluff on the Sabine River to New Iberia connecting at that point with the steamer *Gen. Hodges* for Berwick and from there by rail to New Orleans.

It was expected that a regular mail packet from Beaumont to Niblett's Bluff would soon be placed in service. Meanwhile, stages ran from Beaumont to Orange and then small boats sailed a distance of five miles to and from Niblett's Bluff. The Texas and New Orleans Railroad (T&NO) at Beaumont furnished the area with a somewhat deteriorated line to Houston.

Just how long Alexander & Co. served the area is unclear. By August, 1866, J. B. Price, who had been the Southwest Louisiana mail contractor for many years, was running a line of two-horse stages from Berwick Bay to Niblett's Bluff three times a week each way. It was reported that he would substitute some "new and splendid" four-horse stages on the route in the near future.

The steamers, schooners, and stages served their purpose fairly well, but travel and transportation of goods would be so much easier for everyone if only a direct rail connection could be made between New Orleans and Houston. Efforts to accomplish this continued.

In the summer of 1865, the *Daily Picayune* suggested that the United States government build the Texas road using the recently freed slaves as laborers. According to the *Picayune*, Texas and the Red River country had a large number of discontented freedmen who disliked plantation work but did not have the necessary training for other employment. Why not put them to work on the railroad and let the government feed and clothe them? This had already been done in Louisiana—the freedmen had been put to work on levees and other public works without pay and the government had provided for them. Both the freedmen and Louisiana had benefited from that program. The former slaves and the whole Southwest and also the United States military would benefit this time because troop movements between Louisiana and Texas would be much easier. Despite the excellent prospective benefits, however, the government did nothing. A private company would have to build the road.

The New Orleans and Texas Railroad Company, which still held the rights to proposed line from New Iberia to Orange, was reorganized at New Orleans on July 13, 1866. Its name was changed back to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad, Louisiana Division (T&NO, LD)—the name it was chartered under in 1859.

Stock purchases made under the charters of 1859 and 1862 were acknowledged and placed on the same basis in regard to interest by issuing new stock to all holders. The stockholders were then told that the company planned to continue its efforts to build a road to Texas.

In order to begin the project, Col. A. M. Gentry, president of the T&NO (both Louisiana and Texas Divisions), and C. M. Congreve, the representative of English investors in the company, traveled to New York to arrange financing. Everyone had high hopes, but plans were upset by an unforeseen and seemingly unrelated event.

In July, 1866, a large, well-publicized race riot occurred in New Orleans. Many New York investors were alarmed by this and refused to meet with Gentry and Congreve, usually giving them what the officers termed "a regular northern cold shoulder." The railroad to Texas would have to wait.

Meanwhile, the NOO&GW was developing plans again to complete the 45-mile segment from Berwick Bay to New Iberia where it would connect with the T&NO, LD.

When New Orleans fell to the Federals in April, 1862, the NOO&GW was taken over by Union troops and operated as a military railroad until January, 1866. Near the end of that month, an order was issued from Washington to return control of the road to its original management. The civilian officers assumed immediate control, but since much paperwork was involved, the official date of the transfer was February, 1866.



Because the NOO&GW was in Union hands during the war, it escaped the destruction so common to other southern railroads. The *Picayune* reported that the road had been "kept in the best of style" and was in a "thoroughly good condition." It was thought to be in better shape than any other railroad in the South.

Times were hard in Louisiana after the war and money not readily available for the extensive construction work required to build a railroad. To begin its expansion from Berwick, therefore, the NOO&GW was forced to explore several funding measures. The company was also in difficulty at this time because it was being pressed for payment by persons who had previously purchased its bond issues. If it was to survive, many thought something drastic had to be done.

The state legislature agreed and in early 1866, passed an act allowing the NOO&GW to lease itself to another firm with adequate financial resources if it chose to do so. It was reported in some papers at this time that a Pennsylvania company was thinking of leasing the NOO&GW and completing a line to Texas through New Iberia and Calcasieu.

The officers of the NOO&GW, however, publicly stated that they had not been approached with such an offer and did not consider it advisable to lease something the company did not possess, namely the rights to the road from New Iberia to Orange. That route still belonged to the T&NO, LD. The right to lease itself was now in the NOO&GW's charter, however, and it was going to be used in the future.

When the T&NO, LD and the NOO&GW began making their plans, the New Orleans papers once again took up the task of promoting a railroad to Texas. The *Picayune*, for example, believed that:

There is probably no line of Railroad in the works that is certain of so large [a] business and profits, when completed, as that between New Orleans and Texas through Southern Louisiana. It will pass, every mile of it, through one of the richest planting regions of the continent, whose products are cash staples the world over.

It was believed at this time that the bondholders pressing for payment of their claims were the main reason the NOO&GW could not finance and begin the Berwick-New Iberia connection. In order to help the beleaguered company, the New Orleans press began calling for these creditors to wait and give the NOO&GW time to grow and prosper because its profits would be immense once the Texas road was opened.

Newsmen in Houston were also doing their part in the struggle to obtain adequate financing. The *Telegraph*, always an avid supporter of the proposed road, wrote that "*Through to New Orleans*, is the motto, and we must not rest until the work is completed."

As 1867 began, there was renewed hope that the Texas connection could finally be made because the use of convict labor was now mentioned as a source of railroad laborers. Governor J. Madison Wells was reportedly going to recommend to the state legislature that penitentiary inmates be used to aid the T&NO, LD.

When this became public, many people began calling for the addition to the work force of New Orleans Workhouse inmates and those sentenced to the New Orleans Parish prison. One advocate believed that this would be "a useful and profitable investment for the State, besides affording healthy outdoor labor for the men." Of much more benefit though, would be the speedy and economical construction of the road to Texas. Convict labor was eventually used but not by the T&NO, LD.

By this time, early 1867, some people were complaining about the slow progress being made by the T&NO, LD. A few railroad promoters were even beginning to publicly question the advisability of a route through New Iberia because, in their opinion, it would require at least three expensive drawbridges and some parts of it would run through uninhabitable land until it reached the vicinity of Lake Charles.

A road from Berwick to Vermilionville and then westward through Calcasieu to Orange, however, would be shorter, avoid the drawbridges, and the land would be easier to grade and then maintain after the tracks were laid.

Spearheading the attack on the T&NO, LD was none other than B. J. Sage, a former member of that company's board of directors. On January 31, 1867, he published a letter in the *Picayune* claiming that the privileges and right of way granted to the T&NO, LD were forfeited by non-use and non-compliance with the terms of the act creating the company. Sage believed that its charter should be repealed and that a new company be organized to build the Texas road. A state railroad commission should also be created by the legislature to oversee all railroad matters in the state.

The editors of the *Picayune* agreed with Sage that the T&NO, LD had forfeited its charter and then advanced an idea that had been considered several years earlier. Since the NOO&GW had already graded and prepared a roadbed to Vermilionville before the war, and since that company was seemingly authorized by its charter to make as many branches as it pleased—let it make one from Vermilionville to Orange. If it was not financially able to do this, then the legislature should charter a new auxiliary company to build between the two points.

This was a good scheme but the NOO&GW just did not have the resources to go even to Vermilionville much less to Orange. Nevertheless, the company soon thereafter reorganized its holdings and began making plans for a Texas road. Its officers evidently did not think its original charter of 1853 allowed the construction of a branch line to Orange because the company petitioned the legislature in February, 1867, for an amendment giving it that right. The legislature did not approve, however, because a new firm—the New Iberia and Orange Railroad Company (NI&O)—appeared on the scene.

Because of Sage's campaign, most people in state government, including Gov. J. Madison Wells, were under the impression that the T&NO, LD's charter was void. Actually it was not, they were going by the terms of the 1862 charter, not the original act of 1859. But since it was believed invalid, the legislature began discussing the issuance of a charter to the NI&O. Now the railroad picture was really crowded. The NOO&GW wanted to build, the T&NO, LD correctly believed that it could still build, and evidently the NI&O was going to be able to do so also.

Shortly after the legislature began debating the NI&O legislation, the top officers of the T&NO arrived in New Orleans from their Houston headquarters to lobby against the new company. T&NO president A. M. Gentry claimed that a \$300,000 guaranteed investment had recently been obtained from three of the wealthiest bondholders in New York and that the company would begin work shortly. All the necessary arrangements had been made for the completion of the roadbed from Orange to Lake Charles, and for the construction of "a large and first class railroad bridge" across the Sabine. Rails for the entire line to New Iberia had been contracted for in England and delivery was expected in the near future.

The T&NO gave several reasons why it wanted to complete the Orange-Lake Charles section before any other part of the route. It was believed that the cattle industry in Southwest Louisiana would benefit because the great herds on the prairies could be driven to Lake Charles and transported to east Texas by rail where they could be easily shipped to New Orleans by steamer.

Lumber interests in the Calcasieu and Sabine area would also benefit, as would the railroad, by the shipment of even larger quantities of wood products to the Houston area. The company estimated that the Orange-Lake Charles section would be the most expensive of the entire line because large bridges were needed across the Sabine and Calcasieu rivers. If the Orange-Lake Charles line was constructed, the completion of the entire road would be relatively easy—or so the officers thought.

As a show of good faith and also to provide transportation to Texas while the railroad was being constructed, the T&NO revealed that it had recently purchased two ocean-going steamers to make regular runs between Berwick and Sabine Pass. River steamboats would then complete the trip to Beaumont where there was a rail connection with Houston.

The T&NO also claimed that its Texas Division had expended over \$3 million on the Houston-Orange road and that since 1859, the Louisiana Division had spent over \$50,000 on surveys and other expenses. The company was now ready to complete the connection to New Orleans and would have already done so had not the war prevented it.

It was impolite and inequitable for the legislature to interfere with the vested rights of the T&NO, LD by chartering a company to build along the same route it proposed to use. The "most eminent legal authorities" had been consulted as to the legality of the T&NO's Louisiana charter and all of them were of the same opinion—it was valid and still in effect.

President Gentry furnished copies of the 1859 act and the legal opinions to Gov. Wells. After reading them, the chief executive changed his position and forwarded the documents to the legislature with an attached note expressing his "gratification at the flattering prospects" for the T&NO, LD's completion to Texas.

Other company supporters wrote the New Orleans paper calling for defeat of the NI&O bill and for increased support of the T&NO, LD. "Which company is the most likely to accomplish this," asked one sympathizer who used the pseudonym Fair Play, "the one that is on paper only, or the one that has half the distance to Houston built and in running order, and is preparing to build the other half?"

In Houston, the city council passed two resolutions in support of the T&NO, LD. One offered support of an idea then circulating to issue Harris County bonds in the amount of \$500,000 to aid the Louisiana Division. The other one stated in part, that the council deplored any action which might embarrass or retard the Houston-New Orleans connection and requested that the Louisiana Legislature not enact anything "inimical or hostile" to the T&NO, LD. A certified copy of this resolution was sent to Gov. Wells and to the mayor of New Orleans.

Railroad rumors were always rampant during this entire period, and one shortly began about the proposed Houston bond issue. It was circulated first in the Louisiana Legislature and in New Orleans financial circles, and then among the general population that Houston officials lacked confidence in A. M. Gentry's ability to lead the T&NO and that the bond issue would never be approved unless the Louisiana legislature repudiated him. The rumor appears to have been the result of political maneuvering in Houston to oust Gentry from the presidency.

When the rumor was finally heard in Houston, several public officials sent messages of support for Gentry to New Orleans, but despite these and all the arguments in favor of the T&NO, LD, the legislature went ahead and chartered the NI&O in March, 1867. It would appear that the legislature was tired of waiting for the T&NO, LD to begin work and just simply wanted to try an alternative.

The new company, headquartered in New Orleans, was given a right-of-way and 150 feet on each side of it from New Iberia to Orange. Its capital stock was set at \$5 million to be dispensed in

\$100 shares, and it was given a ten-year exemption from taxation. Directors of the firm were authorized to make a connection with the NOO&GW or any other railroad in Louisiana and Texas. Work was to begin within a year and be finished before the expiration of five years.

One neutral railroad observer thought that the chartering of the NI&O was going too far. In his opinion, the legislature had simply wasted a grant upon an unknown company to build along an inferior route. He was correct, the NI&O did nothing about the construction of its line and apparently went out of existence sometime later.

The T&NO, LD also settled down to a long period of inactivity. Its claimed financing apparently fell through because in September, 1867, it was reported that Gentry had been in New York for several months and had finally been able to secure such financial assistance that would enable the railroad to revamp its Texas section and then begin work on the Louisiana section.

But nothing was done in Louisiana and then later on, the parent company changed hands. Thereafter it concentrated on improving its Texas system of track which had deteriorated rather badly in some places.

As 1868 began, it seemed that the railroad to Texas would never be constructed because adequate funding could not be obtained. In early January, the *New Orleans Daily Picayune* put forth a novel idea—why not have Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederacy, head a company to build the line? With his prestige, he could surely secure the necessary financial resources.

The *Houston Telegraph* quickly agreed saying that it would be good to "stop all vexations and profitless prosecutions against him, and let him do this great work for the country and for the world." Davis, however, was not available for the project so someone else would have to build the road.

In February, 1868, the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad (NOO&GW) expressed renewed interest in building a line through Calcasieu to Orange where it would connect with the Texas and New Orleans Railroad (T&NO).

In the past, the NOO&GW had always considered any possible route through Calcasieu to be only a branch road. By this time, however, the United States Congress had rescinded its past land grants to the company because of non-use. These land grants had tied the NOO&GW to the route through Opelousas and Natchitoches—the company had not wanted to change the route because the land grants were to finance a large portion of the construction work. Without the grants, the NOO&GW could go to Texas by the cheapest and shortest way possible.

In March, G. W. R. Bayley, chief engineer and also now superintendent of the NOO&GW, made public an estimate of the comparative costs on the routes to Texas: Berwick to Vermilionville (Lafayette) would be \$1 million; Vermilionville to Niblett's Bluff in Calcasieu would be \$2 million; Vermilionville to Opelousas and then to Thompson Bluff on the Sabine (the original route) would cost \$3 million. The route through Calcasieu would not only be shorter but cost \$1 million less. In his report, Bayley also stated that the Vermilionville-Calcasieu road would be better than the proposed lower route by way of New Iberia-Calcasieu.

Two months later, in May, A. B. Segar, president of the NOO&GW, and T. S. Blair, superintendent of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, made an inspection trip all along the partially graded roadbed to Vermilionville and then examined the countryside to Lake Charles. They compiled another estimate of the cost of building the road and also an estimate of the number of workers needed to complete the line. These results were made public in a statement of the company's financial condition issued in June.

Detailed plans were developed, and then in December, 1868, the board of directors of the NOO&GW accepted a proposal to build and lease the road which had been presented by Price, Chouteaux & Co. This firm was owned in part by Gen. Thomas L. Price, a leading western financier and former member of Congress who was by this time managing director and principal stockholder of the Kansas Union Pacific Railroad.

His partner, C. P. Chouteaux, was the son and successor of Pierre Chouteaux, founder of the American Fur Company. C. P. Chouteaux was said to be one of the wealthiest men in the country. Together, he and Price had reported assets of around \$10 million. These assets, however, were invested in their various enterprises and not readily available to spend on the railroad.

Both Price and Chouteaux envisioned a profitable railroading venture that would be of benefit to everyone, but they also had a more immediate motive for its construction. They had just purchased the great salt mines of Judge Avery on the Louisiana coast, were working them successfully, and needed a railroad to transport the salt.

Shortly after receiving the contract, Gen. Price and his son, James B. Price, made an inspection trip to all the towns along the proposed route in Louisiana and then along the existing but deteriorated Texas and New Orleans line to Houston. At Houston, they were to make an arrangement with the officers of the T&NO to connect with their road at the Sabine.

The two Prices reported a "most cordial and encouraging reception" at every place visited especially at Houston. The people there were just as anxious as their Louisiana neighbors to have a direct communication link, and this plan, according to the *Houston Telegraph*, was "an extraordinary opportunity" to obtain it. The *Houston Times* agreed, and because the economic benefit of such a road would be immense, stated that the connection "can be made, it ought to be made, and it must be made."

The construction of a railroad was an extremely costly venture and usually beyond the means of a single company's resources. The NOO&GW, therefore, decided to hold a public sale of stock to help finance the Texas road. On May 2, 1869, its board of directors asked the citizens of New Orleans to subscribe \$1 million for the project but the plan soon thereafter fell through because the sum raised was short by about \$300,000. G. W. R. Bayley believed that had the \$1 million been raised, the road would have been extended to Vermilionville in 1870, and to the Sabine by 1871 or 1872.

The NOO&GW was in a precarious financial condition this time. When the proposed road to Texas fell through, Charles Morgan, a shipping magnate who owned nearly \$1 million of the road's bonds, was able to acquire control of the company's operations from New Orleans to Berwick. He combined it with his steamship company and named the new organization, Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad and Steamship Company. This was commonly called the Morgan Road.

Charles Morgan was also interested in building a railroad to Texas because he lost a large amount of revenue every summer when Galveston imposed yellow-fever quarantines on his steamships coming from New Orleans. To begin planning a Texas road, Morgan organized the Berwick Bay and Texas Railroad Company on June 29, 1869.

Almost immediately he was challenged by a new railroad on the scene—the New Orleans, Mobile, and Chattanooga (NOM&C). Originally chartered in Alabama, the NOM&C had received a Louisiana charter in June, 1868, granting it the right to build a road from Mobile to New Orleans. The NOM&C also wanted to obtain the state franchise and the uncompleted roadbed west of Berwick still held by what was left of the NOO&GW so that it could construct a line to Texas.

Morgan's Berwick Bay and Texas Railroad was already in the process of claiming this prize. He sued to prevent the NOM&C from leasing this western roadbed from the NOO&GW and since he

held mortgage bonds on the NOO&GW, instituted an ultimately successful court action in order to force that company to sell the roadbed to his company. He finally assumed control of the western roadbed to his company on March 22, 1870, and the NOO&GW ceased to exist.

Two months earlier, however, when Morgan had sought a charter and state aid for his Berwick Bay Company from the legislature, he was turned down in favor of a new plan proposed by the Chattanooga Company. This was during Reconstruction, and the legislature was controlled by Radical Republicans who chose not to support Morgan because he was suspected of having Democratic sympathies.

The favored NOM&C had turned to an alternate route when it could not obtain the western roadbed from the NOO&GW. It now proposed to build a line from New Orleans to Donaldsonville, then to Vermillionville, and on through Calcasieu to the Sabine. In February, 1870, the company received its state charter allowing the route through Donaldsonville and also giving it a large amount of state aid.

In anticipation of building its line to Texas, the Chattanooga Company had already made a survey of a portion of the route. In March, 1869, five parties of civil engineers under the general direction of a Mr. Walton began working and by the middle of December, 1869, had reached the Sabine. In Calcasieu, a branch line was surveyed from the sulphur mines, located about 12 miles west of the Calcasieu River, to the Sabine, opposite the town of Princeton, Texas.

The engineers surveyed the new proposed Donaldsonville section and also began correcting and staking out the rest of the line. All survey work was finished by November, 1870. Construction on the 57-mile New Orleans-Donaldsonville segment began in May, 1870, and was completed a year later in May, 1871. Throughout 1870-71, everyone in South Louisiana was hopeful that the railroad could be finished to the Sabine in the near future but the financial condition of the NOM&C and its rivalry with Charles Morgan caused delays and work stoppages.

When Morgan acquired the NOO&GW's western roadbed in March, 1870, he made another attempt to finance a road to Texas by joining with a group of St. Landry Parish investors. They created a new company, the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western—the same name as the old company. The new firm proposed to build a road from Berwick to Vermillionville, then to Opelousas and from there to Texas. The line would not run through Calcasieu. Morgan invested a great deal of money in the company, but the plan failed because the St. Landry investors did not meet the rest of a required subscription.

Morgan was also in an intense economic war at this time with the NOM&C over the New Orleans-Mobile trade. In former days, Morgan's steamships enjoyed exclusive control of the route, but things changed drastically in October, 1870, when the Chattanooga company finished its line from Mobile to New Orleans. The railroad was able to provide better, and more importantly, cheaper service than the ships could. To fight this, Morgan began a ruinous policy of cutting rates but was undercut each time by the railroad.

This could not go on forever and so in 1871 the two rivals began discussing a compromise and finally signed an agreement in New York City in December, 1871. By the agreement, Morgan bought stock in and became a member of the board of directors of his former competitor now called the New Orleans, Mobile, and Texas (NOM&T) after a name change that had occurred in March, 1871.

Among other items, the NOM&T received the franchise and roadbed west of Berwick and agreed to build a road from there to Vermillionville by the time it opened its Donaldsonville-Vermillionville route. The estimated cost of the line from Berwick to Vermillionville was \$1,500,000 and from there to the Sabine, \$3 million.

In January, 1872, a contract with a construction company was signed and work on the railroad resumed. Engineers began looking over the route once again and lumbermen in Southwest Louisiana were told that a large amount of cypress for ties and other construction purposes would soon be needed.

In March, 1872, the *Opelousas Courier* reported that a large force of workers had gone to Lake Charles to begin working on the line in that vicinity. Two months later, the *Lake Charles Echo* estimated there were around 400 men in this work detail and reinforcements were expected in a few weeks.

By September, 1872, work on the road between Vermillionville and Lake Charles was "progressing finely" and the men were "driving the work with all possible dispatch." At that time, about two-fifths of the roadbed through Lake Charles to the Sabine was graded and ready for track laying. Again everyone was hopeful that the road could finally be finished, but certain difficulties arose to circumvent its completion.

In the summer of 1872, Charles Morgan and the other directors of the NOM&T began quarreling about which segment of the railroad to complete first—Morgan favored Berwick-Vermillionville but the other directors wanted Donaldsonville-Vermillionville. Inadequate funds further complicated matters by causing work stoppages and lay-offs in the fall of 1872. A few subcontractors continued working for a while, but all construction ceased by the spring of 1873.

Despite the financial troubles of the NOM&T, optimistic rumors filled the papers of Southwest Louisiana especially after the work stoppages began. In November, 1872, for instance, the *Echo* reported in a wishful notice that it had been informed by railroad sources that work on the road would "be speedily resumed" within 30 days and that the line would be completed in only a few short months.

Nothing could be done, however, because of the continued deterioration of company finances which became even worse the next year when the Panic of 1873, a relatively severe depression, hit the country.

In a complicated financial move and over the objections of Morgan and state officials, the NOM&T was finally sold to two of its directors. Morgan immediately sued to get his western franchise and property back charging violation of the 1871 agreement, but the court eventually ruled against him.

The new owners of the NOM&T divided the railroad into sections east and west of New Orleans, and also instituted a new funding scheme that included public subscription of its stock issues. They were not successful in consolidating their hold on all of the company, however, and in December, 1873, the western section was acquired by Frank Ames.

He too was beset with financial difficulties and in 1874 tried unsuccessfully to interest German bankers in funding the completion of the road to Texas. In December, 1876, the *New Orleans Times* reported that Ames was again trying to secure European financial backing, but despite all his efforts, he was never able to complete the line.

Charles Morgan, meanwhile, having gone his own way after the NOM&T was sold, was busy once more trying to devise some way to build his own road to Texas. One scheme was advanced to him in August, 1873, and was contingent on his getting back his franchise and roadbed west of Berwick. The Texas and New Orleans Railroad proposed a joint venture in which Morgan would supply the graded roadbed to the Sabine and the T&NO would supply the rails, cars, locomotives and everything else needed to put the line in operation. It was an attractive offer, but Morgan was not able to do anything because he could not get his property west of Berwick back for several years.

During the mid-1870's, Morgan made overly optimistic statements about building his road, giving false hope to the people. Everyone wanted the Texas connection, but nothing could be done without adequate financial backing. Morgan could supply a great deal of it but he had lost the franchise and western roadbed. Many thought that the people of New Orleans should make a concentrated effort to pool their resources and aid the construction of the road.

In late March, 1874, the *Echo* ran an editorial urging the merchants and other residents of New Orleans to support the railroad to Texas because it would greatly increase their trade:

They should leave nothing undone to draw to them the rich trade of Southwestern Louisiana, and the only way to show to the people of this section that they really desire it, is to hasten the completion of the projected railroad from New Orleans to Texas. If our friends in New Orleans will take a proper view of this matter, they will easily discover their folly in delaying the completion of this road, and the large amount of trade they are annually losing thereby. Not only that, but it also retards immigration to this section, which we most need just now to place our state in her former prosperous condition.

Despite this and numerous other editorials by the state's newspapers, however, nothing substantial was accomplished.

In 1877, the Democrats regained control of the state government and the Reconstruction period ended. Charles Morgan was able to obtain a charter allowing him to construct a railroad to Vermilionville that year, and then in 1878, was able to get back his prized roadbed and property west of Berwick. Morgan never lived to see his railroad completed however—he died in New York City on May 8, 1878, at the age of 83.

He had tried for a long time to build his road to Texas and its completion during his lifetime would have been, as the *New Orleans Democrat* put it, "one of the crowning efforts of his life."

Control of the Morgan company passed into the hands of Charles A. Whitney who had actually been running it for some time.

By 1878, the people of Southwest Louisiana had been subjected to over 25 years of railroad talk, broken promises and inaction—and they were tired of it. Since no one else appeared capable of making the desired Texas connection, several enterprising residents of Lake Charles decided to make an attempt themselves.

Jacob Ryan, David J. Reid, Thad Mayo, and 22 other Lake City business and civic leaders petitioned the state legislature for a charter to establish a new railroad. On March 29, 1878, this charter was granted and created the Lake Charles, Louisiana and Orange, Texas Railroad Company. As its name implied, the new firm was authorized to construct a line between Lake Charles and Orange.

The capital stock of the company was fixed at \$500,000 to be sold in shares of \$100 each. The number of directors was set at seven and the firm was to be headquartered in Lake Charles. The charter stipulated that work on the railroad had to begin within one year and be completed within two years. It appears that nothing was done by this company and it soon thereafter went out of existence.

On March 30, 1878, the day after the approval of the Lake Charles company's charter, the legislature chartered the Louisiana Western Railroad Company and granted it the right to build a road from Vermilionville through Calcasieu to the Sabine. This new enterprise was organized by James A. Raynor, Charles A. Whitney (who controlled the Morgan Company), John J. Howell, Benjamin Stephenson, and J. C. Ballintine.



On November 21, 1878, the Morgan Road (officially called Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad and Steamship Company), the Louisiana Western, and the Texas and New Orleans made a 25-year contractual agreement that ensured a direct rail line from New Orleans to Houston.

The T&NO began a program of improving its line and raising the roadbed from Orange to Houston by a height of three feet. It also created the Louisiana Western Extension Railroad to build a track from Orange to the Sabine River. There it would connect with the Louisiana Western which in turn would connect with the Morgan line at Vermilionville. The Morgan Company was going to build to that town from Berwick.

The Morgan Road's route was approximately 63 miles and the Louisiana Western section through Lake Charles to the Sabine was about 104 miles.

## OVER \$20,000 OF DAMAGE BY FIRE.

New Iberia, La., Sept. 20.—[Special.]—A fire broke out here to-day at 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the back of a one-story frame building occupied as a grocery. A high northeast wind was prevailing at the time and the flames were fanned into a considerable blaze before it was discovered. After two hours' hard fighting the fire department, assisted by the citizens, succeeded in controlling the flames. C. P. Moss, grocery, saloon and beer depot; a small confectionary establishment; the grocery in which the fire originated, Joe Adams, colored, drug store; a fruit stand and Decourt's barber shop were all destroyed. J. & L. Dreyfus, wholesale and retail grocers and dry goods merchants, were the heaviest losers, their stock being very extensively damaged by water. The gross loss will approximate \$20,000; insurance about \$10,000.

The entire business centre of the town was threatened and it was only by the severest tests of endurance that our firemen succeeded in confining the fire to the block in which it originated. Captain Muggah, of the steamer *W. H. Cherry*, happened to be at the wharf with his boat when the fire broke out. The assistance rendered by him and his boat's crew deserves special mention. A fire hose was connected to the boat's steam pump and very valuable service was rendered in saving adjacent frame buildings from igniting. General Geo. Moorman, of New Orleans, rendered heroic service in organizing and directing a bucket brigade.

He was everywhere and in the hottest places, and the last to leave the post. Due largely to his well directed efforts the town hall, one of our finest brick structures, was saved from destruction. With his bucket brigade, he kept the balconies and all exposed woodwork of the building constantly wet. Chief E. A. Pharr complimented him in the highest terms for the valuable assistance he rendered.

# WILLIAM FREDERICK HAIFLEIGH, SOME NOTES ON HIS LIFE AND TIMES

*by*  
*William T. Shinn*

Jacob Haifleigh married Celeste Carlin, daughter of Celestin Carlin, in 1822. Her succession was opened April 19, 1825. She was survived by her husband and an only child, William Frederick Haifleigh, who was about four years old. The succession inventory showed as community property a dwelling house, kitchen, cabbins (*sic*), smoke house, fencing, sow and 5 pigs, 9 head of sheep, household and kitchen furniture.<sup>1</sup>

Jacob Haifleigh remarried to Elisabeth Riddle, widow of James Riddle.<sup>2</sup>

On March 30, 1840, William Haifleigh petitioned for emancipation, declaring he was an orphan, a minor over 19, having considerable property. A family meeting was held April 9, 1840, in favor of his demand, but no judgment is filed in the record.<sup>3</sup>

William F. Haifleigh married Azelle Cecile Charpentier July 12, 1843, as subsequently set out herein. It appears they had the following children, perhaps others:

1) Frederic Michel, born February 2, 1846 (St. Peter's Catholic Church, New Iberla, Volume 1, page 104).<sup>4</sup>

2) Marie Celestine, born May 7, \_\_\_\_\_, baptized 1847 (Charenton Church, Volume 2, page 22);

3) William Franklin, born April 4, 1851 (Charenton Church Volume 1, page 52-C).<sup>5</sup>

4) Eva Cecilia, born January 1852 (Franklin Church, Volume 1, page 193);

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<sup>1</sup> Succession No. 135-B; Suite 75 Probate Court; Suite 504 District Court; St. Mary Parish records

<sup>2</sup> Marriage Records, Volume 1, pages 265-268, St. Mary Parish.

<sup>3</sup> Suite 96, Probate Court, St. Mary Parish.

<sup>4</sup> Southwest Louisiana Records—Church and Civil Records, Volume 4 (1841-1847)—Rev. Donald J. Hebert, page 238.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Volume 5 (1848-1854), page 265.

5) Adolphine Arna, born October 17, 1854 (Patterson Church, Volume 1, page 34);

6) Charles Abner, born January 19, 1858 (Patterson Church, Volume 1, page 56).<sup>6</sup>

7) Clara Alix, who married April 29, 1869, Martial Gosselin of New Orleans (Franklin Church, Volume 1, page 231).<sup>7</sup>

We also find in the records an Augustus Haileigh who may have been another child. He took oath as deputy sheriff October 7, 1856, and as constable for the 7th Ward on November 10, 1856.<sup>8</sup> He resigned the office of constable and was succeeded on September 23, 1856, by Otho L. Pumphrey.<sup>9</sup>

William Frederick Haileigh's career was also with the sheriff's office. He took oaths as deputy sheriff on May 4, 1841 and December 24, 1849.<sup>10</sup> Subsequently, he moved up to the position of sheriff. The records show bonds as such December 3, 1851 and February 21, 1854<sup>11</sup>; oaths January 9, 1855, January 15, 1856, and January 15, 1858<sup>12</sup>; and bonds December 26, 1859, and April 18, 1862.<sup>13</sup>

A change in his official position is recorded on August 19, 1865, when he took the oath of deputy.<sup>14</sup> Then, on June 14, 1866 he took oath and filed bond again as sheriff, having "been duly elected and commissioned by this Excellency, J. Madison Wells, Governor."<sup>15</sup>

Little recorded information has been located on Valentine Chase. But according to Mary Elizabeth Sanders, Elizabeth Sanders, daughter of Jared Young Sanders and Rachel Nixon Hulick Sanders, was born about 1830 in St. Mary Parish. She married about 1857 to Valentine Chase in St. Mary Parish and they had three sons:

1) Henry Sanders Chase, born August 23, 1858

2) Volney O. Chase, born in July, 1861

3) Jehu Valentine Chase, born December 18, 1868

However, none of this is supported by recorded data.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Volume 6 (1855-1860), page 281.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, Volume 9 (1869-1870), page 185.

<sup>8</sup> Oath Book 1835-95 pages 124, 129, St. Mary Parish records.

<sup>9</sup> Oath Book 1, page 66, St. Mary Parish records.

<sup>10</sup> Oath Book 1835-95 pages 25, 73, St. Mary Parish records.

<sup>11</sup> Oath Book 1 pages 3, 27.

<sup>12</sup> Oath Book 1835-95 pages 99, 109, 146.

<sup>13</sup> Oath Book 1 page 72, 92.

<sup>14</sup> Oath Book 1835-95, page 156

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, page 169; Oath Book 1 page 95.

<sup>16</sup> "The Sanders Family of Attakapas" by Mary Elizabeth Sanders, published in St. Mary Links, Volume 1, No. 1, pages 69, 70.

The name of Valentine Chase does not appear in the conveyance, mortgage, marriage, or probate records of St. Mary Parish. There are only two suits in his name, each an appeal by him from a court judgment against him.<sup>17</sup>

Both suits were filed March 1860, predicated on a lease between Elias Beers and Chase, wherein:

E. Beers agrees to rent his dwelling and a lot of ground consisting of about four acres situated adjacent to the lower end of the town of Berwick together with the out buildings thereon & all the privileges and appurtenances, to Valentine Chase, now of the Parish of St. Mary for the sum of thirty dollars per month to be paid every three months to commence on the first day of June & continue until the first day of January next.

The first suit was for rent from June 1st to September 1st, at \$30 per month; the second was for rent from September 1st to December 1st, at \$30 per month.

The furnishings seized for non payment are colorfully described as follows:

1 Bead teaster 2 chearse 1 small box of house furneter dito too boxes 1 aime rack 1 dininge room soffe 1 tub of crockery 1 bearon 1 cide table 3 small tables 1 Bed stid 6 charse dito 1 bed stid three martres for charse too rockinge charse springs for a bad dito too mattress fore peaces of carpentry 1 fether bead

all of which was "found at the Ferry landing", as stated in return of Alexander Chesnut.

Judgment in each case was rendered for plaintiff, and Chase appealed to the district court. On May 1, 1860 Edward Simon, Jr., district judge, ruled for Beers.

Henry C. Warmoth wrote this assessment of Chase: "Judge Chase was an old citizen of the Parish and a Union Man. He was connected with some of the very best people of the Parish, and was an excellent citizen."<sup>18</sup>

The name of Henry H. Pope does not appear in the conveyance, mortgage, marriage, or probate records of St. Mary Parish. In fact, there are only two suits in his name, each of which is referred to below.

Warmoth gives some detailed background on Pope:

Colonel Henry H. Pope was a native of Ogdensburg, New York. He was a schoolteacher. He enlisted in the United States Army on the 16th day of August, 1861, and was mustered into the service as captain of Company D of the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry for a period of three years, on the 18th of August 1861. He was promoted to Major on October 26, 1864, and Lieutenant-Colonel on November 24, 1865, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

After the War Colonel Pope settled in the Parish of St. Mary. . . .<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Suits 5584 and 5585, District Court.

<sup>18</sup> "War, Politics and Reconstruction - Stormy Days in Louisiana" by Henry Clay Warmoth, page 69 (Hereinafter cited as "Warmoth.")

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, page 69.

It is interesting to note that the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry saw action in St. Mary Parish in 1863, and it is possible that was Pope's first acquaintance with the parish.

The election to be held April 17 and 18, 1868, to vote on offices and a post Civil War state constitution was certain to be a tense situation. On April 16, 1868, fifty eight men took oath to

faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent on us as Special Deputy Sheriffs in and for the Parish of St. Mary & particularly to keep good order at the Polls during the two days of the election to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1868.

The oath was taken by Fred Gates, judge 3rd Judicial District, but does not mention that the sheriff deputized them.<sup>20</sup>

In the election H. H. Pope was elected sheriff. His commission was issued July 13, 1868, and he took oath July 27, 1868. His commission was ordered to be spread on the minutes of the district court September 22, 1868.<sup>21</sup> Chase was elected parish judge, his commission issued July 14, 1868, and he took oath June (sic) 15. He presided at first term of said court, October 5, 1868, and ordered commission and oath spread on the minutes.<sup>22</sup>

The defeated Democrat officeholders paid scant attention to these proceedings. On July 30, 1868, the following order of court was signed by Henry Train, judge of 3rd District:

On motion of James L. Belden of counsel for Henry H. Pope sheriff elect of the Parish of St. Mary, La., & on showing to the Court that a commission has issued to the said Pope as Sheriff aforesaid by Henry Clay Warmoth Governor of the State of Louisiana & that he has taken the oath prescribed by the Constitution & qualified, all in accordance with the law & on further showing to the Court he has furnished John Baldwin, James H. Handy, A. J. Imlay as sureties on his bond as sheriff aforesaid, all residing in the Parish aforesaid & who are solvent & responsible & worth more than the sum required in such cases; And on further showing to the court that he submitted his said bond & sureties to James G. Parkerson, Recorder of the Parish of St. Mary, La. & Samuel Randlett, President of the Police Jury of the Parish aforesaid & Robert Allen, Clerk of the Court of the Parish aforesaid for approval as the law requires & on further showing to the Court tht the said Recorder President of the Police Jury aforesaid & the Clerk of the Court aforesaid did arbitrarily & without any cause & contrary to law, refuse to approve & accept said sureties though they were solvent & such as the law requires;

It is ordered by the Court that the said James G. Parkerson, Samuel Randlett & Robert Allen do show cause on the 4th day of August 1868 why the said bond should not be approved & said sureties accepted & the said Pope be immediately permitted to enter upon the discharge of his duties as Sheriff of the Parish of St. Mary, La. & for general relief in the premises.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Oath Book 1835-95 page 177

<sup>21</sup> Minute Book 1858-1877 page 1; Minute Book 1860-1882 page 129.

<sup>22</sup> Minute Book 1858-1877 page 1.

<sup>23</sup> Suit 6579, District Court.

No other proceedings are filed in the record and the matter was ordered "placed on the dead docket" May 6, 1869.<sup>24</sup>

On September 16, 1868, Pope filed suit against "William H. Hailleigh." He set forth his election and qualification and asked for a writ of mandamus against Hailleigh to

show cause why he should not at once deliver to Relator the room set apart for the sheriffs office of the Parish of St. Mary and all the books, papers, documents and other things belonging to the office of Sheriff of said Parish.

The writ was ordered issued the same day by Judge Henry Train. In the statement of facts certain items are mentioned, none of which is on file in the record:

- 1) Certified copy of certificate of election returns
- 2) Commission of Pope July 13, 1868 and oath attached dated 27th July 1868
- 3) Certificate of Recorder of Parish of St. Mary dated 14th August 1868 certifying to registry of commission of Pope;
- 4) Oath of Pope dated 22nd September 1868.

Notwithstanding the declaration in item 3, we do not find anywhere in the records any registry of Pope's commission.

On September 22, 1868, the judge ordered the writ of mandamus made peremptory. The next day Hailleigh filed motion for suspensive appeal to the supreme court of Louisiana. He gave bond September 24 in the amount of two thousand dollars, with James L. Cowan and Independence Alpha as sureties. Pope was served personal notice of this appeal September 29, 1868, the service being personal, by W. P. Allen, Coroner.<sup>25</sup>

No further proceedings are filed in the record.

Matters were now heating up considerably.

As an evidence of the tone of the opposition press at this period, I give below a few extracts from a paper published at Franklin in the Parish of St. Mary, one of the richest and most progressive parishes of the State. This paper was edited by a New Hampshire Yankee who had settled in this parish as a school-teacher some thirty years before the War. His name was Daniel Dennett.

Later, on October 17, 1868, he said:

The recent disasters of the Radicals in St. Landry have had a terrible effect on the little rat Pope (the sheriff of the Parish and but lately a Colonel of a Regiment in the Union Army). He has a complication of diseases, his liver don't act, he has the colic, the toothache, and the yellow jaundice, and don't feel very well himself. If he dies, the shell of an English walnut would make a good sarcophagus in which to convey his precious remains to his

<sup>24</sup> Minute Book 1860-1882, page 136.

<sup>25</sup> Suit 6585, District Court

Northern friends. . . . and be buried at low-water mark when the tide ebbs and flows in twenty-four hours.<sup>26</sup>

The same night Pope and Chase were murdered. Warmoth gives this version of the event:

On the night of this latest issue of Mr. Dennett's *Planter's Banner* five men disguised themselves in a saloon nearby and proceeded to O'Neill's Hotel in the town of Franklin, where Colonel H. H. Pope and his wife resided. On the gallery of the hotel they found Colonel Pope and Judge Chase in conversation. They killed Colonel Pope in the presence of his wife, and also Judge Chase, using both pistols and knives under the most shocking circumstances.<sup>27</sup>

These statements were used, with no additions, by Joe Gray Taylor in his text.<sup>28</sup> Frank J. Wetta drew heavily on accounts by Josiah Fisk:

Scalawag Josiah Fisk also testified to the perils facing Southern white Republicans in rural Louisiana. In an affidavit, dated October 22, 1868, Fisk, a New Orleans lawyer, stated that he traveled to St. Mary Parish to advise the Republican sheriff, a Colonel Pope on certain legal matters. Pope warned Fisk in advance that 'the people had become hostile, and had resolved that no republican should hold office or have a house in the Parish'.

When he arrived safely in New Orleans, Fisk learned of the murder of Pope and parish judge Valentine Chase, a scalawag. Pope and Chase were attacked at a local inn. 'Col. Pope and Judge Chase were together, on the gallery in front of Pope's room', [Fisk stated,] ' . . . the murderers came along under the gallery softly until they reached the stairs, up which they rushed up, and fired several balls into Col. Pope before he had a chance to rise, when Col. Pope jumped for his room, into which he fell dead. Judge Chase struggled with them on the gallery and stairs, they stabbing and shooting all the time; finally he fell dead near the banks of the bayou'.<sup>29</sup>

It is remarkable that such detail was known by a person who was not at the scene of the unfortunate crime. We have located the original coroner's inquest papers on this matter and attach them as an appendix.

The commission of James H. Handy as parish judge, October 29, 1868, with oath attached, was ordered spread on the minutes of the parish court February 1, 1869. Unfortunately, they were not transcribed.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Warmoth, pages 67, 68.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, page 69.

<sup>28</sup> "Louisiana Reconstructed 1863-1877" by Joe Gray Taylor, page 169.

<sup>29</sup> "Bulldozing the Scalawags", Frank J. Wetta; Louisiana History, Volume XXII, No. 1, pages 48, 50.

<sup>30</sup> Minute Book 1868-1877, page 3.

The election notwithstanding, Haifleigh continued to act as sheriff in judicial sales until September 5, 1868. There is no official record of oath or bond, but on April 3, 1869, Eliza B. Mentz signed as sheriff.<sup>31</sup>

On the personal side, William F. Haifleigh had purchased from Daniel Dennett, on October 31, 1851, a tract above Franklin described as having a frontage of 1 1/4 arpents on the public road leading from Franklin to Indian Bend, containing 30 arpents, more or less. The price was \$2,500 all on credit.<sup>32</sup>

On April 20, 1854, he purchased from Anthony W. Baker 27.50 arpents in the rear of the property, across Bayou Yokely, for \$540 cash.<sup>33</sup>

The next day Haifleigh presented as paid the two notes he had given to Dennett on October 31, 1851, to cancel the loan on his purchase.<sup>34</sup>

On June 13, 1860, he executed a mortgage in favor of Dr. Thomas Dwyer for \$6,000, represented by three notes, each for \$2,000, with eight per cent interest. He mortgaged his 20 acre tract and 17 slaves.<sup>35</sup>

In 1861 Haifleigh built on the tract a splendid residence, a photograph of which is shown in the appendix.<sup>36</sup> But "hard times come a-knockin' at the door". On August 29, 1866, Mrs. Armide Hayes Mallon, administratrix of the estate of Dr. Thomas Dwyer, filed suit for collection of the notes given June 13, 1860. Judgment was rendered for the plaintiff May 4, 1867. Writ of seizure and sale was issued August 7, 1867.<sup>37</sup>

After the filing of that suit, and prior to rendition of judgment, Azelie Cecile Charpentier filed suit against her husband, on October 1, 1866. She stated they were married July 12, 1843, and that she was the daughter of Charles M. Charpentier and Marguerite Clarisse Verret (his wife) both deceased, from whose estates she had inherited considerable cash and notes, all gone into the possession of her husband. Judgment was rendered in her favor for \$17,089.22 with legal interest from October 1, 1866, until paid. It was further ordered that the couple be separated in property.<sup>38</sup>

The next legal maneuver was made August 30, 1867, when Azelle Cecil Charpentier Haifleigh sued for injunction to stop the sheriff's sale in Suit 6133. She declared that "since said mortgage was executed large and extensive improvements have been erected on the land mortgaged." A writ of injunction was granted in her favor September 3, 1867, but it was dissolved by judgment May 2, 1868.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Sheriff Sale Book 3, pages 449, 451, 453 and 454

<sup>32</sup> Mortgage Book 15 page 201 No. 8395.

<sup>33</sup> Conveyance Book J page 228 No. 7687

<sup>34</sup> Mortgage Book 17 page 267 No. 10151.

<sup>35</sup> Mortgage Book 21 page 274 No. 13210.

<sup>36</sup> "The Parish of St. Mary", J. S. Glass, Publisher, no date, circa 1897.

<sup>37</sup> Suit 6133, District Court.

<sup>38</sup> Suit 6199, District Court.

<sup>39</sup> Suit 6404, District Court.



Proceedings were then resumed in the original foreclosure suit and the real estate was advertised to be sold August 1, 1868. On that date an appraisal was made in the amount of \$20,000. However, no sheriff's sale was ever made.

In a final move to salvage, on August 13, 1868, Haifleigh made a dation to his wife, in partial satisfaction of his indebtedness, transferred

No. 1	One lot of silver ware valued at	\$250	
2	Two mules	"	200
3	One Rockaway Carriage	"	100
4	One small Spring Wagon	"	50
5	Fifty five head of sheep	"	125
6	Thirty four shares N. O. O. & G. W. R. R.	"	25
7	Fee Book & accounts (Sheriff's charges)	"	2000
8	House hold & Kitchen Furniture	"	400
9	Rights & credits in hands of P. J. Pavy Syndic, Estate of Lobit & Charpentier, insolvents	"	160
Total estimation three thousand three hundred and ten dollars			\$3310. <sup>40</sup>

William F. Haifleigh then went into bankruptcy and by the order of court on February 20, 1869, his property was put up for sale and sold March 23, 1869, to Augustus DeBerkeley Hughes, of New Orleans. The sale covered his front tract and the remaining 18.34 arpents of his rear land tract that he had not conveyed away years before. The price was \$10,000 for the first tract and \$550 for the second.<sup>41</sup>

Finally, on March 22, 1872 the Public Administrator of the Parish of St. Mary filed petition in parish court declaring

That William F. Haifleigh recently died in the Parish of St. Mary, leaving a considerable amount of property in the form of claims and accounts; that the heirs of age have renounced the succession of their father and refuse to administer the same and that the Estate is now vacant and unrepresented.

He asked for letters of administration and that an estimative inventory be made. The application was ordered advertised and inventory ordered taken by George B. Shepherd, notary, on March 21, 1872. No further proceedings other than beginning petition are in the records.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Conveyance Book P page 599 No. 11466.

<sup>41</sup> Conveyance Book Q page 251 no. 11726 and Conveyance Book R page 539 No. 12693.

<sup>42</sup> No. 2250, Probate Records.

The Hailleigh residence was completely destroyed by fire about 1938, but the name remains on land records today. On February 12, 1939, the first filing of Hailleigh Subdivision was placed on record. Keeping the Hailleigh name alive in St. Mary Parish.<sup>43</sup>

## APPENDIX

State of Louisiana  
Parish of St. Mary

We and each of us do solemnly swear that we will diligently enquire and true presentment make, on behalf of the State, when and by what means to person H. H. Pope whose body here lies dead, came to his death; and we shall return a true inquest thereof, according to our knowledge and such evidence as shall be laid before us.

So help us God.

(Signed) Independence Alpha  
E. E. Saunders  
C. A. Kappel  
O. L. Pumphrey  
J. R. Puckett  
A. A. Delahoussaye

Sworn to & subscribed before me  
this 18th October 1868

(Signed) W. P. Allen  
Coronor

The foregoing subscribed Jurors hereby declare that they unanimously request that Doctor Charles M. Smith be subpaned (*sic*) to appear as a Witness at this inquest that they believe the testimony of a Physician or surgeon is necessary to enable them to form a verdict as to the cause of the death of the deceased.

Testimony of witnesses duly summoned by the Coronor of the Parish of St. Mary to testify in regard to the means and manner whereby the deceased H. H. Pope came to his death.

Dr. Charles M. Smith being sworn says, has examined the body of the deceased and finds three wounds either of which in his opinion would have proved mortal. One of the wounds was just above the corner of the right eye made apparently by a bullet entering the brain—The other two were in the right lung, both entering in the neighborhood of the fifth & six ribs, about three inches from the breast bone and near together, there were two other slight wounds one in the left hand the other in the back apparently caused by a spent ball.

(Signed) C. M. Smith, M. D.

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<sup>43</sup> Conveyance Book 5-S page 286 No. 64629.

Sworn Charles B. Austin says—Was in the Coffee House next door to the Hotel when he heard several shots fired and heard the cries of women, then came into the Hotel, where he met the proprietor Mr. O'Niell & his wife who told Wit. A man had been shot in the House - presently Dr. Wood came in and told wit that deceased was dead. Knows nothing of who fired the shots, as he entered the Hotel saw three persons coming out none of whom he recognized it being very dark.

(Signed) C. B. Austin

John A. O'Niell sworn says - Is proprietor of a Hotel in Franklin. Was in his room about 9 o'clock last night, Mrs. Pope came in to enquire after the health of his wife, the door of the room was closed, immediately after Mrs. P's entrance heard a discharge of fire arms in the direction of the room occupied by decd. - The instant the firing ceased wit went to deceased room and there found the latter bent double with his face towards the floor, lifted him up, laid him on his back & put a pillow under his head, he gasped once, when wit told his wife that this was his last gasp and that he was dead - the bullet holes showed wit that the wounds were mortal - Wit folded his arms over his breast and straightened his legs and remarked that it was useless to do more for him.

There was no person in deceased's room when wit & his wife entered saw deceased himself lying as before described. Saw no person leaving the room when they entered. Has no knowledge of who inflicted the wounds.

(Signed) J. A. O'Niell

Sworn Joseph L. Frost says - Was standing at the Odd Fellows hall last night when he heard firing in the direction of Mr. o'Niells hotel heard cries of women, another said to wit if any other person would go with him he would see what was the matter Wit said he would to they then went into the room of deceased, everything there was apparently quiet with no one in the room save two women and deceased who was lying on his back, while wit was there two or three men and a negro woman with the child of deceased came into the room wit staid (sic) but a minute or two and then left-

(Signed) J. L. Frost

Mrs. Lydia Pope, sworn says, has heard the testimony of John A. O'Niell and corroborates the same in every particular - Wit further says after she came out of Mr. O'Niells room she saw three or four men (white she thinks) standing under the Gallery which runs under her room, they all appeared to be smaller thats (sic) Mr. Chase, thinks he was one of them, they seemed to be in a hubub for a short time when they started and run

(Signed) Lydia H. Pope

The foregoing testimony was taken in my presence and before the Jury of Inquests, the witnesses having been all duly sworn by me before testifying.

(Signed) W. P. Allen  
Coroner

An Inquisition taken at Franklin, Parish of St. Mary on the eighteenth day of October A. D. Eighteen hundred and sixty eight, before William P. Allen, Coronor of the Parish of St. Mary upon the view of the body of H. H. Pope there lying dead - The Jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed, having been sworn to enquire on behalf of the State when and by what means said Pope came to his death, upon their oaths do say: That deceased came to his death by three wounds, either of which would have proved mortal inflicted by a bullet or bullets probably from a pistol or pistols in the hands of some person or persons to the Jurors unknown-

In testimony whereof the Coronor and Jurors of this inquest have hereunto subscribed their names the day, month and year aforesaid

(Signed) E. E. Saunders  
Independence Alpha  
O. L. Pumphray  
J. R. Pucjett  
A. A. Delahoussaye  
C. A. Kappel  
W. P. Allen, Coronor

Rec'd & filed  
October 19th 1868  
(Signed) Robt. W. Allen  
Dty Clerk Dt Ct

State of Louisiana)  
Parish of St. Mary)

We the undersigned Jurors duly summoned by the Coronor (*sic*) of this Parish to view the body of Valentine Chase found dead on Water Street in the Town of Franklin in said Parish do each solemnly swear that we will diligently enquire and true presentment make, on behalf of the State, when and by what means the person whose body here lies dead came to his death; and will return a true inquest thereof according to our knowledge and such evidence as shall be laid before us.

So help us God.

(Signed) E. E. Saunders  
A. A. Delahoussaye  
Independence Alpha  
O. L. Pumphrey  
C. A. Kappel  
J. R. Puckett

Sworn to & subscribed before  
me this 18th October 1868

(Signed) W. P. Allen  
Coronor

State of Louisiana)  
Parish of St. Mary)

Testimony of witnesses duly summoned by the Coronor (sic) of the Parish of St. Mary to testify in regard to the means whereby the deceased Valentine Chase came to his death

John A. O'Niell being sworn says, last time he saw deceased living was at supper time last night, and saw no more of him until he saw his dead body on the bank of the Bayou this morning - Deceased boarded at the House of witness - Chase did not occupy the same room with H. H. Pope - Heard of no disturbance between deceased and any of the other guests of the house - At the request of Mrs. Pope at about 9 P. M. wit went to the room of deceased but did not find him there

(Signed) J. A. O'Niell

Dr. Wm. B. Wood sworn says - The last time he saw deceased was at dinner yesterday - Was not at the Hotel at supper - between 12 & 1 o'clock last night - after with had gone to bed, some gentlemen than acting as Patrol called for him in front of his room in the Hotel, got out of bed, went to the window and asked what they wanted, they answered that they wanted to go with them and examine a wounded man found on the Street and supposed to be dead, dressed and went with them and near the Hotel and between it and the Bayou found the body which he recognized as that of deceased, whom wit examined enough to know that he was dead and covered with blood, and told the parties present they had better let the body alone and notify the coronor

(Signed) W. B. Wood

The jurors here unanimously request that Dr. W. B. Wood be summoned to examine the body of deceased so as to enable them to form a verdict as to the cause of death-

And the said Dr. W. B. Wood having in presence of the Jury examined the body of deceased and being further duly sworn saith that in his opinion deceased came to his death from a penetrating wound fracturing the skull (sic) just aboe the right ear in two places, the wound appears to have been made with a sharp instrument or a bullet, cannot tell which without taking off the scalp (which the jury do not deem necessary). Finds also a cutting wound on the back near the spine, on the right side, severing the seventh or eight (sic) rib near the spine and entering the cavity of the chest, and another cutting wound on the left side of the spine a little lower down and also entering the cavity, either of these wounds would cause death.

(Signed) W. B. Wood, M. D.

The foregoing testimony was taken in my presence and before the Jury of Inquest, the Witnesses having been all duly sworn by me before testifying.

(Signed) W. P. Allen  
Coronor (sic)

State of Louisiana)  
Parish of St. Mary)

An Inquisition taken at Franklin in the Parish of St. Mary on the eighteenth day of October, A. D. Eighteen hundred and sixty eight before William P. Allen, Coronor of the Parish of St. Mary

upon the view of the body of Valentine Chase there lying dead. The Jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed, having been sworn to enquire on behalf of the State when and by what means said Chase came to his death, upon their oath do say-

That said deceased came to his death by a penetrating wound fracturing the skull (*sic*) in two places and by two cutting wounds on the back, the former by either a bullet or sharp instrument, the latter by a sharp instrument either of which wounds would in our opinion have caused death, said wounds inflicted by some person or persons unknown to said Jurors.

In testimony whereof the Coronor and Jurors of this inquest have hereunto subscribed their names to (*sic*) day, month and year aforesaid.

(Signed) A. A. Delahoussaye  
 Independence Alpha  
 C. A. Kappel  
 O. L. Pumphrey  
 J. R. Puckett  
 E. E. Saunders  
 W. P. Allen  
 Coronor (*sic*)

Received & Filed  
 October 19th 1868  
 (Signed) Robt W. Allen  
 Dty Clerk  
 Dt Ct

Criminal Records  
 Years 1850-1871  
 Parish of St. Mary

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## QUERY

I am seeking information on Andrew T. Thorpe, born in Louisville, Kentucky, January, 1846, died in New Iberia, Louisiana, about 1915. He served in Company E, 14th Kentucky Cavalry, Confederate States Army and was paroled at Shreveport June 7, 1865. He practiced law in New Iberia. He married a widow, Mrs. Josephine Ragan. Her daughter, Lessie Ragan married a Mr. Stark and had a daughter named Audine Stark. Any information on this family will be appreciated.

Maner L. Thorpe  
 181 Santo Tomas Lane  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93108

# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS REPORTED IN THE *LAFAYETTE ADVERTISER*, 1890-1899

*Compiled by  
Alvin Y. Bethard*

## Missing issues:

- 1890: Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 8, May 21, May 31, June 7, July 5, July 25, Dec. 27  
1891: Jan. 3-Jan. 17, Jan. 31-Feb. 14, March 28, April 11, May 16, May 30, June 4-June 18, July 11, Aug. 1-Aug. 22  
1892: Entire year missing.  
1893: Jan. 7, Jan. 14, March 4, April 29, May 10, June 17, July 8, Aug. 12  
1894: Complete.  
1895: March 30, April 27, July 6 - Sept. 28, Nov. 16-Dec. 7, Dec. 21, Dec. 28  
1896: Jan. 4-March 21, May 9, July 4, July 25, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Dec. 19, Dec. 26  
1897: Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 6, April 10, April 17, May 15-Oct. 23, Dec. 11  
1898: Jan. 1, May 28, June 11, June 18, July 9 - July 23, Nov. 5-Dec. 31  
1899: July 29, Aug. 19, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Nov. 11  
Many issues incomplete.

## *Births*

- Allingham, Mr. and Mrs. J. T., a boy, April 22, 1899, page 1, col. 6.  
Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. William, a boy, Feb. 2, 1895, page 5, col. 1.  
Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. William, a girl, March 1899, page 1, col. 3.  
Carter, Mr. and Mrs. J., a girl, Feb. 9, 1895, page 5, col. 2.  
Cayard, Mr. and Mrs. A., a son, Aug. 18, 1894, page 5, col. 1.  
Chachere, Mr. and Mrs. W. A., a boy, Nov. 13, 1897, page 3, col. 1.  
Couvillion, Mr. and Mrs. Leo, a girl, Nov. 10, 1894, page 5, col. 1.  
Couvillion, Mr. and Mrs. Leon, twin boys, Aug. 15, 1896, page 3, col. 1.  
Eaves, Mr. and Mrs. T., a girl, Nov. 13, 1897, page 3, col. 1.  
Girard, Mr. and Mrs. P. M., a girl, Aug. 18, 1894, page 5, col. 1.  
Harnish, Mr. and Mrs. Charles, a boy, Sept. 23, 1899, page 3, col. 2.  
Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Armand, a boy, Feb. 23, 1895, page 5, col. 3.  
Lusted, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H., a boy, March 2, 1895, page 5, col. 1.  
Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Paul, a girl, Oct. 28, 1899, page 1, col. 5.  
Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, a boy Sept. 23, 1899, page 1, col. 3.  
Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred, a girl, Nov. 25, 1899, page 1, col. 6.  
Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Fred, a boy, June 20, 1896, page 3, col. 1.  
Mouton, Dr. and Mrs. G. C., twins, a boy and a girl, July 18, 1896, page 3, col. 2.  
Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. J. D., a girl, Dec. 9, 1899, page 1, col. 5.

Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney, a boy, Aug. 18, 1894, page 5, col. 1.  
 Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, a girl, Feb. 2, 1895, page 5, col. 1.  
 Ratcliff, Mr. and Mrs. Jim, a boy, April 11, 1896, page 5, col. 1.  
 Romero, Mr. and Mrs. E., eight child, Aug. 25, 1894, page 5, col. 4.  
 Schrmulen, Mr. and Mrs. Gus, a boy, Feb. 23, 1895, page 3, col. 3.  
 Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. R., a girl, Feb. 9, 1895, page 5, col. 2.  
 Veazey, Mr. and Mrs. S., a boy, Nov. 13, 1897, page 3, col. 1.  
 Williams, Mr. and Mrs. B. J., a boy, Aug. 18, 1894, page 5, col. 1.  
 Wischan, Mr. and Mrs. O., a boy, Nov. 13, 1897, page 3, col. 1.  
 Wischan, Mr. and Mrs. Otto, a boy, Dec. 16, 1899, page 1, col. 2.  
 Yandle, Mr. and Mrs. S. E., a boy, Dec. 16, 1899, page 1, col. 2.

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 Andrus, Felix - Melchior, Madeline Clemence, Jan. 16, 1897, page 3, col. 1.  
 Arceneaux, Bienvenu - Dupuis, Nydia, Dec. 30, 1899, page 1, col. 6.  
 Barns, George - Brandt, Jenny, Aug. 22, 1896, page 3, col. 2.  
 Bayard, Homer - Vandergriff, Ida, April 8, 1899, page 1, col. 3.  
 Begneaud, Phillibert - Begneaud, Axema, October 25, 1890, page 5, col. 2.  
 Bendel, Samuel - Reims, Rosa, Dec. 23, 1893, page 4, col. 3.  
 Bergeron, Simon - Bergeron, Rosa Trahan, Dec. 20, 1890, page 5, col. 4.  
 Bienvenu, Charles - Sandoz, May, October 28, 1899, page 1, col. 4.  
 Billaud, Hebert - Billaud, Alice, Feb. 18, 1893, page 5, col. 4.  
 Billeaud, Andre - Comeaux, Amelle, June 17, 1899, page 1, col. 5.  
 Billeaud, Martial - Bernard, Palmyre, July 1, 1893, page 8, col. 3.  
 Bluestein, Alex - Levy, Lena, Jan. 9, 1897, page 3, col. 1 and Jan. 23, 1897, page 3, col. 2.  
 Borel, Hilaire - Judice, Edna, Jan. 7, 1899, page 1, col. 2.  
 Bowen, John F. - Bienvenue, Celika Gueriniere, Oct. 25, 1890, page 5, col. 2.  
 Broussard, I. A. - Daughtry, (first name not given), Nov. 29, 1890, page 5, col. 1.  
 Broussard, Robert F. - Applegate, Manette, Jan. 15, 1898, page 3, col. 4.  
 Brown, George - Millaudon, Maude, Aug. 18, 1894, page 5, col. 3 and Aug. 25, 1894, page 5, col. 2.  
 Burke, Arthur - Pointboeuf, Elizabeth, April 26, 1890, page 5, col. 5.  
 Butcher, Amos - Mouton, Louise, April 30, 1898, page 4, col. 1.  
 Caffery, Dr. Russell - Cushman, Edith, Dec. 29, 1894, page 4, col. 3.  
 Cayard, Andrew - Parrish, Helen, June 24, 1893, page 5, col. 2.  
 Chargois, J. A. - McBride, Cornella, July 21, 1894, page 5, col. 2.  
 Chiasson, Theogene - Guidry, Elodie, Dec. 13, 1890, page 5, col. 5.  
 Clark, W. H. - Hoffpauir, Eula, Nov. 24, 1894, page 4, col. 2.  
 Clegg, Baxter - Givens, Louise, April 24, 1897, page 3, col. 2 and May 1, 1897, page 3, col. 2.  
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- Cornay, Florian - Guerinier, Elodie, Jan. 9, 1897, page 3, col. 1 and Jan. 16, 1897, page 3, col. 2.
- Couret, Arthur - Martin, Thealinde, Jan. 21, 1899, page 1, col. 3.
- Cunningham, Lewis - Irwin, Madelle, Feb. 18, 1893, page 5, col. 5.
- Cushman, Dr. Milton - Pharr, Lizzie, Feb. 15, 1890, page 5, col. 4.
- Darling, C. K. - Nickerson, Lella, Jan. 27, 1894, page 4, col. 3.
- Davidson, J. J. - Kennedy, Lilla, June 22, 1895, page 5, col. 2.
- Delaney, Dr. R. M. - Hopkins, Ida, Oct. 24, 1896, page 3, col. 2.
- Delery, Jules C. - Fazende, Alexandrine, Feb. 16, 1895, page 5, col. 3.
- di Calcinara, Comte Alfredo - Roussel, Marie, June 15, 1895, page 8, col. 2.
- Domingue, Alexandre - Trahan, Marie Donatille, Oct. 25, 1890, page 5, col. 2.
- Doucet, Jacques - Dubernard, Aurore, Feb. 23, 1895, page 5, col. 3.
- Ducote, Joseph - Martin, Caroline, Dec. 8, 1894, page 5, col. 2 and page 8, col. 1; Dec. 22, 1894, page 1, col. 1 and page 5, col. 3.
- Ducrocq, Dr. Louis - Trahan, Haydee, Jan. 14, 1899, page 1, col. 2; Jan. 21, 1899, page 1, col. 5 and Feb. 11, 1899, page 1, col. 4.
- Duhon, Etienne - Broussard, Cecile, Jan. 26, 1895, page 5, col. 1.
- Dupuis, Leonce J. - Brun, Anna, Jan. 21, 1899, page 1, col. 3.
- Eaves, T. - Abbott, Mary, Jan. 9, 1897, page 3, col. 1 and Jan. 16, 1897, page 3, col. 2.
- Fletcher, J. E. - McDaniel, Isaura, Dec. 16, 1899, page 1, col. 2.
- Floyd, Finley - Hoffpaul, Ruthie, Nov. 17, 1894, page 5, col. 3.
- Fontenot, H. L. - Martin, Clara, April 18, 1896, page 5, col. 2.
- Fournet, H. P. - Bailey, Nellie, Feb. 4, 1899, page 1, col. 2 and Feb. 18, 1899, page 1, col. 3.
- Francez, Maurice - Martin, Annette "Nettle", July 29, 1893, page 5, col. 3, and Aug. 5, 1893, page 5, col. 3.
- Gardebled, D. V. - Broussard, Felicia Maria, Feb. 18, 1899, page 1, col. 3.
- Girard, Emile - Hill, Carrie, April 28, 1894, page 5, col. 3.
- Girard, Dr. Felix Elol - Fouchet, Mamie, Dec. 25, 1897, page 3, col. 2.
- Girard, Dr. P. M. - Singleton, Lella, Oct. 21, 1893, page 5, col. 3.
- Guidry, Rauol - Burke, Eliza, May 10, 1890, page 5, col. 4.
- Guilbeau, Frank T. - Rousseau, Coralie, Dec. 8, 1894, page 8, col. 1.
- Guilbeau, Ludovic - Crouchet, Ida, Ida, July 22, 1893, page 5, col. 3; July 29, 1893, page 5, col. 2 and Aug. 5, 1893, page 5, col. 3.
- Guillotte, Eraste - Duhon, Louise, Nov. 28, 1891, page 5, col. 3.
- Hafkesbring, W. R. - Elliot, Alice, June 20, 1896, page 3, col. 2.
- Hanegan, A. T. - McFaddin, Mary, April 24, 1897, page 3, col. 2.
- Hebert, Lastie - Fabre, Marie, Dec. 8, 1894, page 5, col. 1 and page 8, col. 1.
- Hebert, Remy - Montet, Marie Clelise, April 4, 1891, page 5, col. 3.
- Henderson, George - Tanner, Rosa, Nov. 8, 1890, page 5, col. 2.
- Hobeln, Frederick - Olivier, Julia, Dec. 22, 1894, page 5, col. 2 and Dec. 29, 1894, page 4, col. 3.
- Jagou, H. - Fortune, Rosa, July 14, 1894, page 5, col. 2.

- Janin, Frank - Girouard, Annette, Nov. 10, 1894, page 5, col. 3.
- Jordan, John M. - Archinard, Marie, Dec. 4, 1897, page 3, col. 2.
- Kahn, Sigmund - Bendel, Rosa, Nov. 18, 1893, page 4, col. 3.
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- Wood, Captain T. A., Jan. 4, 1890, page 4, col. 1.
- Young, Effie, Sept. 23, 1893, page 5, col. 2.
- Young, Nicholas, Feb. 23, 1895, page 5, col. 3.
- Younger, John G., Nov. 15, 1890, page 5, col. 2 and Nov. 22, 1890, page 5, col. 3.

# LAFAYETTE PARISH SUCCESSIONS 1823-1900

*by Rebecca A. Batiste*

*(continued from vol. XXIV, no. 4)*

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
L		
149	Landry, Louis	Nov. 20, 1828
1167	Landry, Malvina	Feb. 5, 1868
1789	Landry, Marcelite	Jan. 13, 1887
167	Landry, Marguerite	Sept. 12, 1829
1053	Landry, Marguerite	Jan. 20, 1866
1456	Landry, Marguerite	Feb. 3, 1875
156	Landry, Marie Cornelite	June 11, 1829
219	Landry, Marie	March 8, 1832
1078	Landry, Marie	May 17, 1866
2012	Landry, Marie	June 1, 1894
1464	Landry, Marie	Sept. 9, 1875
1595	Landry, Marie Louise	May 15, 1880
1055	Landry, Marie	Jan. 23, 1866
393	Landry, Marie Rose & Marcelite	Oct. 20, 1829
419	Landry, Maximilien	Aug. 10, 1840
1182	Landry, Maximilien	April 30, 1868
852	Landry, Maximilien, Jr.	Aug. 4, 1858
1759	Landry, Norbert	Feb. 18, 1886
1968	Landry, Numa C.	Dec. 10, 1892
15	Landry, Olivier	July 22, 1823
907	Landry, Olivier	Sept. 13, 1860
1580	Landry, Oneziphore	Nov. 12, 1879
784	Landry, Palmyre	March 1, 1856
214	Landry, Pelagie	Dec. 23, 1831
1042	Landry, Pierre	Jan. 12, 1866
337	Landry, Rosemond	Sept. 2, 1837
2163	Landry, Rosemond	Aug. 2, 1899
1144	Landry, Severin	Dec. 16, 1867
579	Landry, Suzanne	Nov. 12, 1847
1562	Landry, Syphroyen	Jan. 21, 1879

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
2084	Landry, Syphroyen	May 23, 1896
1161	Landry, Ursin Emile	Jan. 21, 1868
1972	Landry, Vicotrine	Jan. 23, 1893
617	Landry, Victor	March 6, 1849
889	Landry, Zeline	Dec. 30, 1859
2055	Lane, Sidney B.	Oct. 28, 1895
1138	Langlinals, Alexandre	Dec. 1, 1867
1023	Langlinals, Emile	Nov. 15, 1865
1903	Langlinals, Euphemie	Nov. 25, 1890
1373	Langlinals, Homere	Aug. 13, 1872
209	Langlinals, Jean	Sept. 1, 1831
1565	Langlinals, Jules Rousseau	Feb. 17, 1879
1064	Langlinals, Rosemond	Feb. 3, 1866
1269	Langlinals, Ursin	Sept. 19, 1870
1420	Lapiene, Jean	July 10, 1873
302	Lapont, Pierre	no date
909	Laporte, Joachim	Oct. 11, 1860
570	Lascouraigne, Jean	Aug. 21, 1847
502	Latiolais, Eugenie	Oct. 30, 1844
2159	Latiolais, Euphrosine	May 1, 1899
2025	Latiolais, Dr. F. C.	Oct. 30, 1894
1249	Latiolais, Felix	March 5, 1870
2028	Latiolais, Felix	Dec. 7, 1894
1287	Latiolais, L. K.	April 6, 1871
1942	Latiolais, Pierre Anthéol	Jan. 26, 1892
954	Laughlin, Adelaide	Feb. 14, 1863
433	Laygel, Louis	April 19, 1841
39	Lebert, Pierre	June 14, 1824
2181	LeBlanc, Alcide	May 25, 1900
1507	LeBlanc, Antoine	June 17, 1877
626	LeBlanc, Antoine C.	Aug. 8, 1849
664	Leblanc, Azelle	Feb. 1, 1851
1294	LeBlanc, Caliste	June 26, 1871
2192	Leblanc, Clet, Jr.	Nov. 13, 1900
159	Leblanc, Constance & Charles	July 10, 1829
1550	LeBlanc, Corine	Sept. 3, 1878
1844	Leblanc, Cydalise	Nov. 2, 1887
78	Leblanc, Dame Marie	Dec. 21, 1825
355	Leblanc, Edward	April 9, 1838
2092	Leblanc, Ernestine	Oct. 12, 1896
1486	Leblanc, Helene	April 25, 1874
771	Leblanc, Heloise	June 30, 1855
324	Leblanc, Hortence	Dec. 24, 1836
1831	Leblanc, Josephine	Feb. 2, 1888
444	Leblanc, Julien	Nov. 8, 1841
1948	Leblanc, Julien	April 23, 1891

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
1985	Leblanc, Julien	Aug. 3, 1893
1441	Leblanc, Lise	April 25, 1874
1564	Leblanc, Louise	Feb. 14, 1879
1163	Leblanc, Marie G.	Jan. 25, 1868
78	Leblanc, Marie Dame	Dec. 21, 1825
915	Leblanc, Narcisse	March 1, 1861
1948	Leblanc, Onezime	April 23, 1892
848	Leblanc, Placide Willis	May 13, 1858
1911	Leblanc, Portalis	Dec. 27, 1890
1884	Leblanc, Rosemond	March 8, 1890
135	Leblanc, Simon	June 30, 1828
1435	Leblanc, Ulger	Dec. 15, 1873
2102	Lee, Athea	Dec. 23, 1896
1082	Lee, Emily R. & Joseph	July 3, 1866
1145	Lee, Jane S.	Dec. 19, 1867
560	Lee, John	March 26, 1847
1346	Lee, John	Aug. 1, 1872
234	Lee, Peter	Oct. 13, 1832
1149	Lee, Robert E.	Dec. 26, 1867
866	Lee, Thomas George	Jan. 5, 1859
471	Lefebvre, Etienne McKinley	Nov. 25, 1842
571	Lefebvre, Marie	June 29, 1847
188	Lefebvre, Francois Melicetre	Aug. 21, 1830
330	Lefebvre, Francois	April 17, 1835
1594	Leger, Alexandre	May 11, 1880
994	Leger, Anastasie Gabriel	Aug. 4, 1865
216	Leger, Andree	Feb. 7, 1832
515	Leger, Julien	June 23, 1845
1033	Leger, Julien	Dec. 30, 1865
309	Leger, Michel (Mrs.)	no date
527	Lemer, Marguerite	April 7, 1846
1328	Leocadie, (No name)	July 22, 1872
1030	Lere, Pierre	Dec. 11, 1865
10	Levexien, Francoise Leontine	June 15, 1823
790	Levy, Jacob	Feb. 13, 1856
788	Lilly, Adeline & Warren,	Feb. 5, 1856
374	Lilly, Bennet	Jan. 17, 1840
594	Lilly, Bennet	Sept. 10, 1848
1446	Lindsay, Clara	July 29, 1874
981	Loirat, Jean	Sept. 30, 1864
1989	Long, Dennis	Nov. 20, 1893
1898	Lormand, Norbert	Oct. 25, 1890
692	Lormant, Theodule	April 8, 1852
1830	Louis, Don Louis Joseph	Feb. 1, 1888
277	Louis, Jean	July, 1834

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
577	Louviere, Clairville	May 25, 1848
691	Louviere, Julianne	April 8, 1852
424	Louviere, Marie	April 14, 1841
1954	Louvieres, Edward Anthony	May 5, 1892
1105	Louvieres, Theodule	Jan. 14, 1867
1778	Lowe, Mary E.	Oct. 18, 1886
431	Lower, George	March 23, 1839
164	Lyons, David	Aug. 28, 1829
273	Lyons, Elizabeth	June 16, 1834
320	Lyons, John	July 23, 1835
1339	Lyons, Michael	Aug. 1, 1872
430	Lyons, Michel	March 22, 1841
2077	Lyons, Sarah Jane	May 8, 1896

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1759	Maitre, Joseph	Jan. 22, 1886
1707	Maitre, Joseph Adam	Feb. 7, 1884
763	Malborough, Telesphore	Feb. 7, 1855
1320	Mallet, Adele	March 27, 1872
1345	Mallet, Joseph Giron	Aug. 1, 1872
835	Maloney, Richard & Elizabeth	Nov. 19, 1857
150	Marceaux, Francois	Nov. 20, 1828
1322	Margaret, (No Name)	April 27, 1872
1380	Marks, Andrew Alfred	Aug. 15, 1872
548	Marsh, Eliza Kaye	Oct. 5, 1846
1961	Martin, A. Edgar	Sept. 28, 1892
1255	Martin, Adeline	April 14, 1870
1937	Martin, Albert	Aug. 11, 1892
900	Martin, Alfred	June 16, 1860
53	Martin, Andre	Nov. 15, 1824
1114	Martin, Andre	June 4, 1867
1130	Martin, Andre	Nov. 22, 1867
1243	Martin, Andre	Dec. 21, 1869
1226	Martin, Andre D.	Dec. 26, 1868
2078	Martin, Azema	May 8, 1896
183	Martin, Bernard	June 8, 1830
1128	Martin, Carmelite	Nov. 22, 1868
1752	Martin, Caroline	March 16, 1885
1767	Martin, Cecilia	April 13, 1886
1556	Martin, Celeste	Oct. 16, 1879
972	Martin, Charles Z., Chester, Sr.,	July 18, 1864
137	Martin, Emile	March 7, 1842
1284	Martin, Joseph	March 7, 1871
1546	Martin, Joseph E. R.	Jan. 17, 1878

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
1001	Martin, Louis Adolph	Sept. 9, 1865
30	Martin, Marie Babin	Dec. 27, 1823
59	Martin, Marin	July 7, 1825
518	Martin, Michel Janin	Aug. 22, 1845
272	Martin, Pauline	May 2, 1834
990	Martin, Pierre	Aug. 28, 1865
1678	Martin, Portalis Louis	April 2, 1883
1618	Martin, Robert Bruce	Oct. 1, 1881
2053	Martin, Sallie	Oct. 12, 1895
2124	Martin, Sidney Anthony	Jan. 18, 1898
1123	Martin, Valery D.	Nov. 30, 1867
1752	Martin, Valsin A.	March 16, 1885
1715	Martin, Victor	no date given
1689	Martinez, Merida	Oct. 8, 1883
379	Masseau, Charles	Oct. 17, 1836
1858	Matherne, William	Feb. 14, 1880
657	Mathias, Frederick	Oct. 7, 1852
1505	Mathieu, Juliette	Jan. 18, 1877
56	Mauley, Christian	Feb. 8, 1825
258	Mayfield, Elisha B.	Aug. 10, 1833
257	Mayfield, Thompson J.	Aug. 8, 1833
1923	McBride, Edward	Feb. 11, 1891
2149	McBride, Isabella	Jan. 4, 1899
1186	McBride, Laurie	June 1, 1868
2119	McBride, Lewis Guilbeaux	Dec. 13, 1897
1620	McBride, Thomas	no date given
236	McCarthy, Barthelemy, Claire	Oct. 15, 1832
1334	McCarty, John Bete	Aug. 1, 1872
165	McCully, James Claude, Sr.	Oct. 11, 1829
723	McDonald, Andrew	Nov. 14, 1853
723	McDonald, Ann	Nov. 14, 1853
204	McGlaude, Duncan	May 14, 1831
2061	McKin, Hannah	Dec. 31, 1895
739	McLane, Mary Ann	March 28, 1854
2091	Meaux, Alexander Russell	Sept. 5, 1896
168	Meaux, Athanas	Oct. 16, 1829
860	Meaux, Elizabeth	Nov. 8, 1858
103	Meaux, Francois	Jan. 12, 1827
155	Meaux, Francois	June, 1829
864	Meaux, Hypolite	Dec. 9, 1858
641	Meaux, Marie	March 5, 1850
19	Meaux, Mitchell	July 16, 1823
347	Meaux, Onezime	Feb. 23, 1838
1342	Meaux, Pierre	Aug. 1, 1872
1401	Meaux, Pierre	Nov. 15, 1872

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
731	Megret, Antoine D.	Dec. 6, 1853
386	Melancon, Adelaide	April 27, 1832
1134	Melancon, Adeline	Nov. 28, 1867
943	Melancon, Azelle	March 11, 1862
2166	Melancon, Berthe	Sept. 19, 1899
1673	Melancon, ElOI	Feb. 27, 1883
2034	Melancon, Emelle	Jan. 15, 1895
2166	Melancon, Emerite	Sept. 19, 1899
1675	Melancon, Emilien	March 7, 1883
741	Melancon, Eugene	April 29, 1851
815	Melancon, Jean Achille	May 11, 1857
54	Melancon, Jean B.	Oct. 12, 1858
858	Melancon, Jean B.	Oct. 12, 1858
1323	Melancon, Jean Sosthene	June 5, 1872
1219	Melancon, Joseph Ozeme, Sr.	March 23, 1869
306	Melancon, Marie	Sept. 10, 1835
2145	Melancon, Mathilde	Dec. 8, 1898
993	Melancon, Onezime	Sept. 2, 1865
1323	Melancon, Sosthene Jean	June 5, 1872
1706	Melancon, Suzette	March 4, 1884
1541	Melchoir, Odile	Feb. 27, 1878
157	Melle, Pierre	June 13, 1829
695	Mercier, Jean B.	July 26, 1852
168	Mercier, Milly	Oct. 16, 1829
237	Merrian, John	Jan. 9, 1833
275	Merrian, Thomas B.	July 3, 1834
235	Merriman, Eleanor	Dec. 6, 1832
21	Mesonier, Elesie	Sept. 4, 1823
1536	Mhire, Clement	Nov. 23, 1877
304	Mierre, Placide	March 3, 1836
2018	Miller, Armentine	Sept. 3, 1894
1365	Miller, George	Aug. 1, 1872
180	Miller, James, Jr.	March 27, 1830
1250	Mills, Thomas L.	March 17, 1870
789	Mills, William Franklin	Feb. 13, 1856
1355	Milne, Alexandre Parkerson	Aug. 1, 1872
752	Mire, Aglae	Aug. 3, 1854
893	Mire, Balesaire Blanchard	Feb. 4, 1860
474	Mire, Benjamin	Feb. 26, 1843
1577	Mire, Clement	Oct. 6, 1879
210	Mire, Edward	Sept. 3, 1831
549	Mire, Elise	Nov. 27, 1846
2	Mire, Joseph	April 30, 1823
903	Mire, Marie	June 30, 1860
1003	Mire, Theogene	Sept. 11, 1865
473	Mire, Zephirin	Feb. 20, 1843

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
836	Missonnier, Elise	Nov. 30, 1857
1603	Missonnier, Elisee	Aug. 26, 1880
1602	Missonnier, Hypolite	Aug. 24, 1880
851	Missonnier, Laure	June 28, 1858
405	Mixtu, Hainy	Jan. 28, 1833
476	Moliere, Alexandre	March, 1843
531	Molliere, Alexandre	Aug. 11, 1846
1653	Monnier, Auguste	Feb. 27, 1882
1062	Monnier, Jules	Feb. 2, 1866
1061	Monnier, Louis	Feb. 2, 1866
1514	Montet, Adelaide, Sr.	Feb. 14, 1877
1704	Montet, Caliste	Jan. 22, 1884
1276	Montet, Cleonise	Dec. 2, 1870
1913	Montet, Elise Broussard	Jan. 14, 1891
2057	Montet, Emma	Nov. 5, 1895
367	Montet, Jean	Aug. 13, 1839
537	Montet, Jean Pierre Paul	Sept. 26, 1846
878	Montet, Leon	July 13, 1859
1578	Montet, Leonide	Sept. 23, 1879
186	Montet, Margaret	July 20, 1830
478	Montet, Marguerite	May 3, 1843
2125	Montet, Marie Clelie	Jan. 29, 1898
62	Montet, Pierre Paul Solange	May 5, 1825
537	Montet, Pierre Paul Jean	Sept. 26, 1846
791	Montet, Placide	Feb. 14, 1856
529	Moore, William	June 8, 1848
1934	Morgan, Hegekiah	Sept. 24, 1891
1265	Morrel, Henry	July 5, 1870
1905	Morvant, Azelia	Nov. 29, 1890
1398	Morvant, Belizaire	Oct. 25, 1872
1437	Morvant, Carnezie	Jan. 14, 1874
1994	Morvant, Eraste	Dec. 21, 1893
106	Morvant, Francois	March 8, 1827
841	Morvant, Francois	Feb. 16, 1858
850	Morvant, Salvator	June 11, 1858
487	Moss, Alfred P. Joseph, Jr.	April 11, 1843
1285	Moss, Emily	March 6, 1871
597	Moss, Joseph H.	June 6, 1848
1551	Moss, Melissa	Sept. 18, 1878
102	Moss, Nathaniel	Nov. 23, 1826
1923	Moss, Ralph	Nov. 7, 1892
1754	Mouchet, Anna	Dec. 20, 1885
693	Mouleston, Marguerite	Aug. 4, 1851
1644	Mourland, Francois	Nov. 2, 1881
996	Mouton, A. E.	Sept. 7, 1865

*to be continued*



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# THE CAJUN WOMAN AS UNOFFICIAL DEACON OF THE SACRAMENTS, PRIEST OF THE SACRAMENTALS IN RURAL LOUISIANA, 1800- 1930

By Ron Bodin

For some time I have considered Lauren Post's research and the work of others concerning the Cajuns and have been especially interested in religious instruction and practices in the prairies of Southwest Louisiana (and in rural Louisiana in general). This excerpt of a paper surveying existing research and utilizing informants sixty-five years of age and over from two isolated communities in Vermilion Parish--areas not served by Catholic churches until the late 1920s--seeks to provoke further inquiry into a number of areas by proposing to answer a few questions of interest via a general survey of the literature, a survey of the recorded history of the church in Louisiana and via informant interviews.

Every once in a while research gives birth to a burning question that one feels compelled to respond to. While collecting folklore from informants in Vermilion Parish, such a question came to mind as I interviewed elderly Cajuns--people who struck me as deeply religious--often praying the rosary as I walked into their lives with my note-pad and tape-recorder.

Seeing a priest make his rounds, a basic question popped into my consciousness one quiet fall day while "researching" at the Lahasky Nursing Home in Erath--for some 130 years rural Louisiana was often without the services of Catholic priests. I recalled that fact from my readings on Louisiana history. Realizing that Southwest Louisiana is predominantly Catholic, one wonders what became of the church, and of people's religious beliefs and practices when there was either no priest or only a few circuit-rider priests able to visit rural areas every few years.

My question became more specific the more I thought about the matter. Since during much of the nineteenth-century there was only one priest (or only a few priests) for all of Southwest Louisiana, how was religious instruction provided in the prairies (and rural areas) under these conditions? Who provided the instruction? And what did it consist of? What was the role of the Catholic clergy in the religious life of the prairie (and the rural) Catholic? And how were church teachings, sacraments, and sacramentals used by the Cajuns (and other locals) of the area? How were people baptized, married, confirmed, and buried? Catholics today rely heavily on the priest (the church after all is a sacramental one and only priests and bishops can by virtue of their ordination perform the sacramental duties of the church). What happened to the faith when there were few priests (a rather common frontier situation) and thus few opportunities to learn about and to partake of the sacraments?

To answer these questions, a study was designed that sought out informants from two rural Vermilion Parish communities which were not served by churches until the late 1920s. With entree into these two communities, I interviewed French-speaking Catholics who were sixty-five years of age and older in hopes that they could recall their early days when no formal, institutionalized church presence existed in the Prairie Greig and Meaux communities. (Both of these communities are located in the vast prairie area described by Post in his *Cajun Sketches*). They and elderly priests who had served Vermilion Parish and were now retired from their active ministries proved to be rich sources of information and assisted in my study.

As my research progressed, remarkable similarities emerged between the religious instruction and practices in Vermilion Parish and those reported and written about throughout Louisiana (except for New Orleans) in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However the prairies of

Southwest Louisiana and the Cajun Catholics of Vermilion Parish in particular are the focus of this report of my folklore study's findings.

I have concluded that in Vermilion Parish (as in many rural areas of Louisiana) the Catholic faith was preserved (by people who by and large could neither read nor write) through the use of sacramentals (holy water, holy medals, saint's pictures, palms, candles, scapulars and the rosary). Most importantly, these objects of the faith that served to keep one "in touch" with God when there was little opportunity to receive the sacraments in a (Catholic) sacramental religion, were "administered" almost exclusively by women who assumed the role of tradition-keeper, and who were tacitly encouraged to teach religion to family members, administer the sacramentals, and improvise the mass and the sacraments of baptism and marriage by dedicated local priests who were unable to provide these services and who realized the necessity of preserving the faith even if it demanded an unorthodox approach. Not until the development of fully staffed Catholic church parishes (beginning in the 1890s and continuing on into the 1920s and the 1930s) are women discouraged and officially "barred" from their home-based religious practices that amounted to the Cajun woman serving as unofficial deacon of the sacraments and priest of the sacramentals.

### The Prairies Of Southwest Louisiana

Who were the residents of the Cajun prairies--the residents of Meaux and Prairie Greig?

Lauren Post, a native of Rayne, and a noted cultural geographer traces the settlement patterns in the prairies of Southwest Louisiana. According to Post there were four great waves of immigrants who brought the greater part of the population into the prairies. The first wave consisted of the Acadians who arrived between 1765 and 1785. Next, Americans of Anglo-Saxon origin settled around Opelousas beginning at the time of the American Revolution--they were looking for new lands and were part of the general westward movement. Negro slaves from the southeastern United States and other areas of Louisiana were brought by cane farmers in the eastern prairie area, but after the Civil War, this population group penetrated all areas of the prairies. Finally, the unclaimed western prairie grasslands were settled by "immigrants" from the Northeast and Midwest intent on planting rice.<sup>1</sup>

Contrary to some popular notions, Post and other researchers correctly assert that the prairies were inhabited not only by Cajuns but by a variety of peoples of various ethnic, racial and national backgrounds. (Not everyone in the prairies was Catholic). As waves of immigrants arrived, the area's diversity was assured and is seen in the tombstone inscriptions in early cemeteries--cemeteries both Catholic and Protestant which house the bodies of Brussards, Landrys, Tooles, Higginbothams, Lees, and Henrys. Still it is easy to understand why some in the nineteenth-century and especially in the early twentieth-century would mistakenly see the prairies as inhabited by a religiously monolithic population since from appearance alone the area was settled by a people of one mind--living in similar, simple homes leading a subsistence life.

For example typical farm houses throughout the prairies were utilitarian in design. Many did not even have porches. The farm itself was made up of a few acres worth of pasture, a small pig pen, a garden, a lot or pen for mules, maybe a small front yard, but little land was wasted on such things. These "petit habitants" often used the expression "lived at home" to refer to their self-sufficient lifestyle. Many small farmers annually stored hundreds of cans of preserved fruits, vegetables, and meats. This subsistence lifestyle affording few luxuries served the population of small farmers well since by and large they were able to endure even the Great Depression without the threat of starvation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lauren Post, *Cajun Sketches from the Prairies of Southwest Louisiana* (Baton Rouge, 1976), p. 324.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 29

Vermilion Parish: located in the Prairies of Southwest Louisiana

Vermilion Parish, the focus of this study, contains some 1000 square miles of salt marshes, lakes, and bayous, some 100 square miles of timberland, and 500 square miles of the parish are dry prairies.

In the post-Civil War era this was a land of cotton and corn. Lying between the cane country of the eastern prairie, and the rice country of the western prairie, the area had a strong share-cropper tradition. Depending on the acreage at one's disposal, the number of mule teams at one's disposal, and the number of family members available to work the land and the mules, the sharecropper could produce anywhere from three to twelve bales of cotton to meet his family's needs. The money crops (cotton, corn) supplied the means for purchasing what the land could not supply, and with the twentieth-century prairie residents experienced increasing interest in consumer goods.<sup>3</sup>

Vermilion Parish, predominantly Catholic, had few good roads until well into the 1920s. The parish's rural inhabitants were thus a rather isolated lot--depending on water-borne traffic and during rainy seasons on the horse for travel and contact with neighbors and for commerce. These hearty souls developed a subsistence lifestyle well suited to the area's geography.

#### Prairie Greig, La.

Prairie Greig is located in the southeast corner of Vermilion Parish's Second Ward. Bordered on the north by Highway 14 and on the south by Vermilion Bay, the area extends from the Iberia Parish line on the east to a vast swamp, La Cypriere, on the west. Noted for its early sugar cane enterprises, Prairie Greig received its name from a prominent slave owner in the area, John Greig, who purchased a 5000 acre land grant in the 1800s. Early settlers in Prairie Greig included a number of stock raisers--Peter Lee, Jean Ste-Claire, Thomas Fletcher, the Wallaces, and the Thibodeaux's. Other early landowners included the Whittingtons, the Leblancs and the Baudoins.

The first Catholic church in Prairie Greig, originally located at Bancker, was dedicated on its Henry site in 1939. Inhabitants of the middle Prairie Greig area were not served by a nearby Catholic church (one less than two hours travel time by buggy) until that year.<sup>4</sup>

#### The Meaux Community

Meaux is a small farming community located some four miles northwest of Abbeville, La. Once known as Harrington Island, the area was named for Joseph Harrington who sometime before 1847 drove herds of cattle from Texas to New Orleans for sale. He also transported timber from Cow Island to the area known today as Meaux and built a residence there. With the establishment of the area's first post office, the community's name was changed to Millington in honor of the man who had been the force leading to the establishment of the post office. The community took on its modern name in honor of Daisy Meaux's 1919 donation of land for a unified public school (to consolidate the four one-room schoolhouses previously operated in the area).

Despite having schools and despite being predominantly Catholic, the farm community of Meaux has never had a Catholic church of its own--locals needed to travel to Abbeville (where St. Mary Magdalene's was founded in 1841) or to Maurice or Leroy (which had churches in the 1890s but were seldom staffed by full time priests until 1918). The closest Catholic church was 2-3 hours travel time by wagon.<sup>5</sup>

Both Meaux and that middle portion of Prairie Greig south of Erath--the Henry and Bayou Tigre areas were initially settled in the Spanish colonial period (1763-1800). Acadians were welcomed as they arrived in the area in small groups in the late 1780's. First settled were the area's fronting waterways, and then the prairies were settled as the eighteenth-century came to a

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp., 29-110.

<sup>4</sup> Vermilion Historical Society, *The History of Vermilion Parish* (1983), pp. 6-33.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 43.

close. The luxuriant grass for cattle grazing, and the soil suited to farming soon attracted a trickle of American frontiersmen and by the time of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the area had a considerable number of frontiersmen and other immigrants from Poland, Germany, and England. Settlement of the area had been the desire of the Spanish for some time before the Louisiana Purchase and that dream now was being realized but a number of years after the Spaniard's rather unsuccessful efforts to attract large numbers of immigrants into the area (it's interesting to note that the Spanish though interested in attracting immigrants to the area were never much interested in any Protestant presence in their colony).

In any case, by 1800 Bayou Tigre had been settled and in 1796 land claims were acquired by Peter Lee Jr. and his brother to areas in the Second Ward just south of Henry.

The Lees donated land for a Methodist church located on Hwy. 330 between Henry and Boston, and for a Protestant cemetery.

The Landry cemetery on the east side of La Cypriere is the final resting place of early Catholic Acadian families of Prairie Greig—land for the cemetery was donated by the Valentin Landry family. There was also a black church and cemetery in the woods and another Protestant church in the area.<sup>6</sup>

Farms, dairies, and small stores were predominant avenues for employment in both Meaux and Prairie Greig. Subsistence farmers, the majority of these people as late as 1912 could not attend schools since family members were needed to work (remember the larger the family, more teams of mules could be utilized, more land could be worked, and more revenue could be realized). These rural people had little contact with the outside world due to the poor roads in the area which were all but impassable during rainy seasons, and in fact transportation was so problematic that most shopped only four times or so a year.<sup>7</sup>

The prairies were frontier lands and their inhabitants frontiersmen. In such an environment organized religion was not man's primary concern—survival was. And with the drive for survival, inhabitants of the prairies like frontiersmen everywhere, learned to depend on their own wiles and in the process were beholden to no formal government or organization—they survived by their own efforts and with the help of their families and neighbors. This attitude of "rugged individualism" would make the establishment of a formal church difficult in the area. That may surprise some. Cajuns after all are Catholic—they always have been and there always have been churches and priests in the area. Wrong! First of all, the prairies were remote, sparsely populated areas located off of the priest's main bayou routes. Secondly, the Cajuns were not the only settlers—and many of the area's prominent settlers were not Catholic. It should be remembered too that perhaps as many as half of the Acadians were only marginally Catholic since they had fled from France to Acadia persecuted for their Huguenot beliefs—and then were reluctantly acculturated into Catholicism with the passing years (that would also be the experience of many non-Catholic settlers in the prairies). Finally, the establishment of a formal, institutional church presence in the remote prairie communities is a recent development. Not until the late 1890s were churches established in major farm communities and in more remote areas churches were not built until the 1920s and 1930s under the direction of Bishop Jules Jeanmard of Lafayette. The church in the prairies is a young one.

Life was difficult in the prairies and churches were few. Before long even those Catholic immigrants settling in the area who had been dedicated church-goers lost the habit of church attendance since there were no churches to visit and by the time churches were established, home religious practices had become accepted substitutes for attendance at church services. A refiscient and culturally conservative area of the country, the people of the prairies would not easily change their habits once they were firmly established. And church-going habits were firmly

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 10-31.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-10.

planted from the time of the area's settlement (as early as the 1780s in Prairie Greig) to the time of the widespread building of churches in the area (in the 1890s).

#### Problems Confronting the Catholic Church in Louisiana

If life proved often difficult for the people in isolated rural Louisiana, the Catholic church's fate was no less problematic since the church faced major obstacles to its establishment outside of New Orleans. First of all, the diocese was huge since the Bishop of Quebec in French colonial times insisted on maintaining his ecclesiastical control over the entire Mississippi Valley. With few priests serving such a vast area, establishing and maintaining a church presence in the area proved nearly impossible. What's more, from the time of its founding, conflicts over authority involving the Company of the West—later to be called the Company of the West Indies (the body responsible for administering the colony) and the church's authorities in Louisiana mired the church in dispute and stymied the fledgling church's development, and territorial squabbles over jurisdiction in the colony between Jesuits and Capuchins two religious orders recruited by the colony and serving the area's spiritual needs—divided the church itself. With the cession of Louisiana to Spain in 1763 the diocese came under the control of the far-removed bishop of Havana who was reluctant to interfere in another country's business. Central authority was lacking and local priests were more or less on their own—suffering from little contact with their bishops and free to engage in unorthodox practices since they were largely unsupervised. Under such *laissez faire* conditions, it is not surprising that the church attracted a few good priests and a slew of others who were escaping the Continent—often unable to work cooperatively with authority and church flocks—often fleeing scandal—and often theological “refugees” harboring condemned doctrinal positions that they were now free to spread in Louisiana.<sup>8</sup>

To complicate matters, Spanish control of the colony proved demoralizing to the French clergy—a number left the area when France ceded Louisiana to Spain and in fact in 1763 there remained only nine (Capuchin) priests in all of Louisiana and with the return of French control in 1800 and then with France's interest in selling the Louisiana territory to the U. S., confusion reigned. French priests were reluctant to remain under Spanish control, the Spanish did not think much of the easy-going French clergy, and both the French and Spanish clergy feared the godless Americans. The diocese's difficulties were being blamed on everyone, but that was nothing new since Louisiana priests had long complained of conditions in the area. By 1800 the Catholic bishop of Louisiana wrote that the Spanish authorities had presided over the near demise of the diocese's church buildings, the loss of church properties, and had fostered a lax attitude toward morals in an attempt not to drive away needed settlers.<sup>9</sup>

The Spanish too had complaints. The Spanish governor of Louisiana as early as 1777 reported that people would not take communion; they considered it a hypocrisy. This reluctance to partake in the sacraments, was perhaps in part inspired by French Jansenist priests who did not teach about or encourage partaking in the sacraments since they felt man was unworthy of receiving the body of Christ.

A struggle also existed between Spanish and French Capuchin friars who remained in the area—the Spanish monks holding on to their order's rules since they had recently resided in European monasteries and were “fresh” enough to remain fervent idealists—the French monks, on the other hand, in Louisiana for some time enduring frontier life were more concerned with creature comforts. All the while there were complaints from Louisiana church officials that the

<sup>8</sup> Roger Baudier, *The Catholic Church in Louisiana* (New Orleans, 1937): pp. 200-57.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 300-350.

Louisiana clergy seldom wandered away from their rectories.<sup>10</sup> Even the Jesuits, some of the first priests in the area, had built a bar in New Orleans and built a commercial indigo plantation to finance their missionary work before building a church in the colony—that laid back church attitude persisted long after those early Jesuits left the Louisiana scene.

With little success in their East Texas and West Louisiana efforts, by 1811 missions were being abandoned at an alarming rate complicating the shortage-of-priests problem that constantly plagued the colony.<sup>11</sup>

What's more, during the whole of the French colonial period there had never been a resident bishop in Louisiana so there was no confirmation until the appointment of Bishop Cirillo of Barcelona in 1785. The bishop found that Louisiana military post commanders and soldiers were not very religious and were marrying and granting divorces to people in the area. Demoralized by conditions generally, a number of clergy simply left as did Bishop Cirillo—being named auxiliary bishop of Santiago in 1782 and then named Bishop of Havana in 1785. Starting in the late 1700s Irish priests were brought from the Spanish college of Salamanca into the diocese to minister to English speakers. Bishop Dubourg in 1815 was appointed to the episcopate and built a number of churches. In this building phase, Lafayette (then known as Vermilionville) had its first church under the dedicated pastor, Fr. Barriere, but when Barriere died in 1823 there was no replacement for nine months, and the (one) parish priest assigned to Lafayette was responsible for a sprawling parish extending from Lafayette to Lake Charles.<sup>12</sup>

With the U. S. purchase of Louisiana in 1803, a number of French priests fled the area this time fearing the rule by the "Protestant Americans." That development proved another setback for the church's presence in the area—an area that had never been able to attract large numbers of religious. The diocese, often deemed the "Wet Grave"<sup>13</sup> plagued by a harsh environment and devastating diseases, by some accounts attracted a few devoted priests (that point needs to be emphasized) and a number of priests fleeing the European continent because of charges of misconduct, or because of personal conflicts with church officials or because of their unacceptable beliefs as seen in Jansenism (and its insistence that man was not worthy of God and so dismissed the sacraments since sinful man should not attempt to form a "union" with a pure and good God).

Even after the Louisiana Purchase, the prairies remained frontier country. Along the bayous, Catholics draped red flags hoping to get the attention of any traveling priest when the need so arose. In the inland prairies, the Catholic population relied on priests who were, when road conditions permitted, able to visit the areas every few years.

It is important to note that by 1835 there were only some eighteen churches in all of Catholic Louisiana and not all of these were staffed by fulltime priests. Not before the 1890's would a host of churches be opened in many rural pockets and as late as 1918 with the installation of Bishop Jeanmard as the first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Lafayette, forty church parishes existed but staffed by only fifty priests for all of Southwest Louisiana. But that was a considerable improvement since before the 1890s one priest often served an area as large as Abbeville to Cameron.

What happened to Catholics and their sacraments when no priests were available to baptize, to provide the last rites, and to bury the area's Catholics?

For one hundred years of its history the Louisiana diocese did not even have a seminary. With few native priests, missionaries were often viewed as foreigners first and as priests secondarily.

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 297-301.

<sup>11</sup> Roger Baudier, *The Catholic Church in Louisiana*, pp. 500-30.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 225-30.

<sup>13</sup> Patricia Fickels, "The Folklore of Sacraments and Sacramentals in South Louisiana," *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany* (1965), pp., 27-45

No wonder that in the early 1800s Louisiana Bishop Duborg wrote, "if the Catholics of Europe do not come to their aid, the last spark of the faith [in Louisiana] is bound for extermination."<sup>14</sup>

The church's problems did not end there. Except for the religious education provided by the Ursuline nuns in New Orleans, no religious education to speak of was provided in the diocese. With so few priests responsible for parishes hundreds of square miles in size how could they? To complicate matters in 1805 a church schism pitted church trustees against the authority of the bishop (after the U. S. purchase American law did not recognize the Catholic church as a legal entity and for much of the 1800s church trustees attempted to wrest away control of church matters from priests and from their bishop). The Louisiana church in the meantime had become notorious for a lax attitude and this even affected some priests who it was reported by church officials seldom ventured further than earshot of their church bells and who conducted one or two masses weekly and paid scant attention to the spiritual needs of those in their flocks. There was even no bishop in the diocese for a fourteen-year period in the 1800s.<sup>15</sup>

In all fairness, Louisiana did at any one time have a handful of dedicated priests. But disease, distance from the people, poor transportation, and anti-clerical sentiments among many of the inhabitants made their missionary jobs next to impossible. With a population that did not respond to the priest's admonitions, with men refusing to attend services, with the lame excuses of locals that churches were too distant and roads too poor even during fair weather, many a priest shook off the area as incorrigible and retired to other parts of the world and whole missions were abandoned in East Texas and West Louisiana as hopeless.

#### A Do-It-Yourself Religion Emerges

Given such conditions, in many rural areas of Louisiana, a native interpretation and theological doctrine emerged characterized by a do-it-yourself attitude toward the sacraments and the sacramentals.<sup>16</sup>

With little or no religious instruction of any kind, and with few opportunities for practicing the faith, many rural Catholics relied on their past traditions to maintain their Catholicity. Even in the 1940s often only two weeks of formal basic instruction preceded communion in Vermilion Parish churches.

It should be again noted that over the years a number of priests in the area worked day and night to exhaustion and to early death in order to spread and maintain the faith. But the task was nearly impossible. There was, for example, due to death and transfers, one priest for all of Southwest Louisiana in 1821. One priest could say mass, perform other sacramental duties, visit the sick, bury the dead, but could not reach all his parishioners scattered in a vast church parish hundreds of square miles in size when transportation was primitive (sometimes travelers inching one mile per hour on rainy days). Insufficient manpower did not allow priests to meet the spiritual needs of rural Catholics.<sup>17</sup>

Transportation was difficult and bishops and priests made circuit-rides occasionally--sometimes only once in a few years and in the case of Bishop Penalver (1796-1803) once in six years.

A number of Louisiana bishops, all the while, pled for assistance and wrote that the faith in Louisiana was being preserved only because of the dedication to the faith of grandmothers, mothers, aunts, godmothers, and cousins.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> George Poret, *Vignettes of Louisiana Church History* (Mansura, La., 1985), p. 27.

<sup>15</sup> Stanley Faye, "The Schism of 1805 in New Orleans," *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, (1939), p. 247.

<sup>16</sup> Rickels, "The Folklore of Sacraments and Sacramentals in South Louisiana," pp. 27-35.

<sup>17</sup> Rosalind Foley, *One Mile at a Time* (New York, 1967), pp. 10-48.

<sup>18</sup> George Poret, Roger Baudier, and Herman Jacobl mention the role of women as preserving the faith in their texts included in the Bibliography of Works Cited.



The predominant role of women in preserving the area's faith is an interesting development. There appears to have been little male involvement--aside from the priest's-- in the church's saving mission. Men were involved as church trustees--Acadian men had been so involved before the exile--and as early as the 1780s laymen played a leading role in controlling the church's temporal affairs, but most men did not attend church services and that was tradition. Women in the prairies sought to preserve their family and religious traditions, sought to fulfill cultural expectations and in the process helped save the prairie church.

Furthermore, many males in the area seem to have relied more on nature and superstition, and on the Haitian-influenced Hoodoo traditions as the basis for their "faith." The *traiteurs* in the area were predominantly male and their faith healing provided considerable recognition for the ability to "heal" ailments including sunstrokes, warts, asthma, and hemorrhages.<sup>19</sup> This *traiteur* tradition seems often to have served Cajun males as a marker of ethnic solidarity--to be a *traiteur* meant that you were of French Catholic ancestry and a real Cajun (Anglos identified their treaters as "healers" but these healers were seldom sought out by Cajuns).

#### The Cajun Woman's Central Role in the Area's Preservation of the Faith

Women preserved the Catholic faith in Louisiana. They substituted the home-based religious instruction they provided their children for formal educational opportunities not widely provided in the area until well into the 1920s. Since there were so few churches in the area, religious practices in the home were likewise substituted for church services and for the traditional Catholic sacramental practices traditionally provided by a church parish.

Women taught their children to pray the rosary and a number of informants in Vermilion Parish recall their mothers leading the family while it knelt at night reciting memorized prayers, and acts and decades of the rosary.

In the prairies women served as unofficial "deacons" of the sacraments. No one appointed them to this position, but there was a crying need to preserve the faith, the culture, and traditionally accepted Catholic practices. Women stepped in and met that need.

Infants who could not be baptized by a priest were unofficially baptized by women in a ceremony referred to as an "andoyee." Sprinkling water on the head of the infant, the child's mother, or grandmother, or aunt blessed the child in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Sometimes a priest was not able to visit remote rural areas for years, and this unofficial ceremony "held" until the child was officially baptized by a priest and was especially valued when an infant's life was in danger before it had been baptized and before the gates of Heaven were opened by the sacrament to the little soul. It was not unusual for children to be three to four years of age before a priest baptized them. Even in the twentieth-century long distances were still involved in traveling from Meaux or Praire Greig to newly constructed Catholic churches and parents continued to wait a number of years before baptizing children hoping the infant would grow and strengthen and become more resilient before embarking on such a trip worrying that the distance and the harsh weather could sicken or even prove fatal to their little ones (in an area plagued with a high infant mortality rate).

Since few were able to attend church--it should be remembered that in the 1840s only Abbeville had a Catholic church in all of Vermilion Parish--the "White Mass" led by laymen, often "officiated" at by women who knew their prayers and acts, emerged for some as a substitute for the church's eucharistic celebration. Practiced in private homes, but never widespread, the practice witnessed the woman explaining the Mass to the assembled--even handing out communion as a practice to those being readied to receive the sacrament at the hands of a priest. With the passage of time, these instructional services became increasingly seen as an alternative to the real thing--the Mass. Although the practice quickly died out when churches were established, so had the population's church-going habits. For nearly a hundred years residents in

<sup>19</sup> For a review of folk medicine and folk religion refer to the works cited by Barry Ancelet and Carl Brasseaux.

remote areas found it difficult if not impossible to either find a Catholic church or were forced to travel hours on poor roads to attend services. Soon family religious practices became established folk religion and these at-home religious practices were almost exclusively handled by women--most often by a woman who could recite well the rosary and its mysteries. Women noted for their virtue were sought out to plead to God for favors. Simple chapels (a family altar) existed in most homes and Catholic bishops visiting rural areas to administer the sacrament of Confirmation during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were surprised by their presence and by the existence of priest-led weddings and baptisms in family homes. As late as the 1930s these chapels persisted in Prairie Greig and were the sites of local masses officiated by visiting priests until the establishment of a Catholic church in Henry in 1939. Family altars (a crucifix, palms, holy water, saint pictures, and candles) set up by mothers are still religious staples found in many homes in Vermillion Parish.

The woman's role did not end there. By the late 1800s parish churches had been built in many larger farm communities (including Delcambre, Leroy, Bancker) and though often understaffed, the Catholic church was now able to provide the sacraments to residents who had populated the prairies since the late 1700s. Still many in remote areas had to travel one or two hours by horse, buggy or wagon to attend services.<sup>20</sup>

With churches in the area, formal first communion ceremonies became a focal point for rural Catholics. Still, little or no instruction was provided by the local priest who was barraged by a multitude of demands on his time. Once again women, most often mothers, grandmothers, godmothers or aunts and cousins, all who knew their prayers--having memorized them from their mothers--prepared 12 to 13-year-olds for first communion. Some Cajun women could read French and provided instruction (sometimes for a fee) to family members or to neighbors who sought them out. Often emphasizing the logistics of the communion act (one must wear white, one must open the mouth to receive communion, the rudimentary instruction was the only available preparation for communion for large numbers of rural folk until trained lay catechists in the 1920s started instructional groups for communicants in some church parishes).

A number of people in their mid-60's in Prairie Greig and Meaux report that they did not receive any religious instruction and a number of them did not make their first communion until the time of their marriage. Some to this day do not understand the concept underpinning the sacrament of communion and believe the Eucharist to be "bread" that was given by God and is a prerequisite for making one's first confession--a sacrament better understood by informants.

It is important to note that the Cajun Catholics in Prairie Greig and Meaux were not a monolithic group as is so often the picture presented by outsiders who stereotype the locals. Some could read French and read the Bible--some were taught catechism by women who could read French--but the majority of those sharecropper families interviewed, received little instruction--and that mostly from women who read out of little black books and taught catechism for a fee. Unable to afford this luxury, many sharecropper Catholics relied on the instruction provided by mothers, aunts, godmothers and other women in the family who taught children to memorize the prayers of the rosary and some of the acts. Today this latter group understands their religion in terms of prayers, rosaries, and the acts.

It seems that as late as the 1920s and the 1930s some churches in Vermillion Parish still provided only "basic" services and poorer members of the parish often shied away from churches where (as in Delcambre) a ten cents admission fee was charged and in Erath and Abbeville where pews were sold. Without the ability to pay these church "fees", the "petit-habitant" was expected to stand in the rear of the church--recall that the adult male simply did not attend services or did so only when the local priest "raised hell"; his wife typically had many children to care for and with long

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<sup>20</sup> Roger Baudier's "One Hundred Years of the Upper Teche" and "The Story of the Catholic Church in Vermillion Parish" provide a wealth of information.

distances to travel, seldom attended mass; and a number of the young felt too embarrassed to openly admit their poverty-stricken condition and shied away from institutional religious activity.

Although no reports of women providing anything akin to Confirmation or Holy Orders is reported by informants or by the literature, the sacrament of marriage in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was often handled by local women in the absence of priests who could visit remote areas infrequently. With early marriages the order of the day in the prairie parishes, to accommodate the need for the culture's demands for marriage before physical union, jumping the broom became one accepted avenue for the community to witness a couple's commitment to a relationship. These family ceremonies were presided over by elders and women played the leading role in promoting the practice and in officiating at the ceremony. As soon as a priest visited the area, the couple was officially married in the rites of the Catholic church. Before this practice developed, colonial military officers were performing secular marriages and at times granting divorces. There is some suggestion that priests in the area frowned on the military's involvement, and found "jumping the broom-handle" a more acceptable alternative.

Since bishops too had difficulties in traveling to remote areas of the prairies, Confirmation was infrequent (every 3 or so years) and many adults in Vermilion Parish were confirmed as adults—a number in their 60s and 70s remain not confirmed since they did not have the opportunity to be confirmed as children.

Despite lack of formal instruction and despite sometimes subscribing to notions of predestination, these isolated people saw God as a kind father who arranged all. To them suffering and hardship did not lead to bitterness. For ultimately they believed that the "Good God" would after death reunite all the members of one's family in Paradise.<sup>21</sup> This is a great testament to the faith of the prairie Cajuns and to the strength of the faith.

For years bishops in Louisiana bemoaned the fact that in various parts of the diocese the shortage of priests meant that many Catholics were buried without church ceremonies and without prayers. In most cases, though, locals unable to provide the church's last rites, nonetheless set up special home altars adorned with a crucifix, candles, holy water, and palms and placed the altar near the bedside of the dying Catholic. Women recited the rosary at such times or said prayers and in the event of death, the body of the deceased was placed in a hand-made wooden casket and displayed in the family's living quarters. There, more prayers were said. Prayers were recited a couple of times during the twenty-four-hour wake—bodies were seldom embalmed since morticians were pretty much a city reality—and as the afternoon of the funeral day approached, final prayers were offered for the soul of the deceased and the person leading prayers (most often a woman) then proceeded to sprinkle the body with holy water before the casket was closed. Placed on an open wagon (beginning in the early twentieth-century the wagon was paneled), the casket often led the funeral procession and mourners followed on foot. At times it has been reported that a horseman hoisting a cross led the procession (on a few occasions the rider was a woman). At the cemetery final prayers in French were led by a woman and the casket was lowered into the ground that had been prepared earlier that day by local men.<sup>22</sup>

#### The Sacramentals and their Women Priests

If Cajun women improvised when it came to the church's sacraments, they were even more imaginative when it came to the sacramentals—those objects often distributed by the church and intended to be physical, tangible items that promote faith. In a do-it-yourself religious environment the sacramentals were less well defined and more open to individual interpretation. Mothers provided instruction on the use of holy water, medals, saint pictures, the rosary, scapulars, candles and blessed palms. Learned by word of mouth and handed down from generation to generation, these instructions assisted the rural Catholic family in keeping touch

<sup>21</sup> Herman Jacobi, "The Catholic Family in Rural Louisiana," (Ph. D. dissertation, 1937), pp. 11-39.

<sup>22</sup> Lauren Post, *Cajun Sketches*, pp. 200-256.

with their faith (in an environment where the formal church and its institutions were often a distant reality).

Home prayer life, it's reported, often centered on the rosary, and for protection sacramentals were employed. Scapulars provided at communion or St. Christopher medals purchased by the family and blessed by a priest (sometimes during Easter duty services or when a priest was able to visit the area) were often used to identify the wearer as a Catholic or used to solicit the protection of God, the saints, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Even the scapular received at communion was seen as providing good luck and was protected from work's wear-and-tear (sometimes worn in little purses attached to the inside of one's clothes) since the family could seldom afford to purchase another one. Some women report wearing medals and scapulars near the heart to assure entry in Heaven if sudden death should overtake one.

Holy water, and candles were usually collected at Easter time by a woman--usually the mother, aunt or cousin who knew her prayers and officiated at home services, and the items were distributed to those family members unable or unwilling to attend church services.

Instruction in the use of sacramentals although highly individualized and open to personal interpretation, served very similar functions throughout the area. Palms, for example, were obtained at Palm Sunday services and were used by the mother to ward off storms. Different families had different prescriptions for the ritualistic use of the palm. A family in Meaux crossed two leaves of palm (most often they are referring to magnolia leaves used in local services due to their abundance in the area) four times--one time in each corner of the house. In Prairie Greig, one mother would burn one leaf of the palm and toss it out the door opening onto the storm. Although the church had never instructed these families in the use of sacramentals for the purposes of protection from natural disasters, the tradition caught on in many Catholic homes--after all the church blessed and distributed these items--the items surely then were in some extraordinary way special.

This legacy of home religious practice was a fact of life in the prairie area that endured through the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. Older Catholics now in their 70s and 80s, continue to utilize sacramentals in the face of foul weather. Younger Catholics (age 60 and younger) have less confidence in these old ways, and voice appreciation for the increase in religious activity that came with the establishment of church parishes staffed by fulltime priests. These younger rural inhabitants have adopted the church's ways instead of those of the home practitioners. Nonetheless, considerable "hard feelings" are reported about their early experiences with church "entry fees" and older males still feel some reluctance to attend mass (remember their traditional aversion to attending the Sunday service). And the population though deeply religious appears less dedicated to the priest than has been reported by some observers of the area's religious practices. It seems that many older Catholics in the area see the priest as a man--one who represents God only while performing the rites of the church--and one they recall who was seldom around in their formative years--and despite whose absence, faith flourished.

For a Catholic, this prairie legacy is saddest when you sit with your elderly parents and relatives and ask them about their God whom they adore and then inquire about their Catholic faith--especially about the sacraments.

Women continue by all accounts to lead their Catholic families to mass, to the church's sacraments, and Bishop Dubourg's words that the Catholic faith has been kept alive by grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and little cousins still rings true in many Meaux and Prairie Greig homes. It seems that the preservation of the faith in rural Louisiana owes much to these conservators of the culture and to the few dedicated priests and to a even smaller number of the

Louisiana Diocese's bishops who were faced with the nearly impossible task of promoting the faith given all the obstacles standing in their way.<sup>23</sup>

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#### The Prairies of Southwest Louisiana



<sup>23</sup> Informant interviews provided much of the article's information and are housed in the Rickel's Folklore Collection, University of Southwestern Louisiana.

# A SIMON LEGEND: THE OLD HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY

By Charles C. Trahan

In his book, *In Search of Evangeline*, Carl Brasseaux discusses folklore (oral history) as opposed to written records. He suggests that stories passed on from one generation to another may not be totally accurate because each generation may add or subtract certain facts from the story as they retell it. This brought to mind the many legends in my family; stories told to me by my family when I was a youngster growing up in Lafayette Parish. I have often wondered how much of the stories were fiction and how much fact. I was especially interested in the Simon legend, the story of the "old house in the country."

I can well remember that when I was a young lad I had crawled under the old house with my "grandpa Jules" so he could show me the charred floor beams and verify his story. The story he told was of his mother, Elizabeth Simon, who, when she was sixteen years old, lived with her husband, Pierre Trahan, near her parent's home on Coulee Ile-des-Cannes near present day Dr. Duhon road. Every Sunday her grandparents came over to eat dinner and visit. One Sunday when her grandparents did not arrive as usual, she became very concerned. The young barefooted Elizabeth mounted a horse and rode bareback to her grandparents home on Bayou Vermillion to check on them. When she arrived, she was greeted by a ghastly sight. Her grandparents had been murdered and placed on a feather mattress in the middle of the floor and the mattress had been set afire. The mattress had burned a hole through the floor and the charred remains of her grandparents and the mattress were found under the house. The remains were placed in an armoire and buried. Many years later my great-grandfather, Pierre Trahan, bought the house from his father-in-law, Eugene Simon, and moved it to his homestead which was located on present day West Broussard Road between Dr. Duhon Road and the Abbeville Highway. I can remember how my grandfather described the move by teams of oxen rolling over cypress logs. The old house still stands at the same location today.

A few years after my grandfather died and my parents were living in the "old house," my father related the same story to me. He added that he was nineteen years old and his grandmother was eighty years old and bedridden when she told him many family stories including the story of the murder of her grandparents. Because she was sixteen years old at the time of the murder that would mean the event took place about 1858 or 1859. In my father's account of the story he added that shortly after the murder a vigilante party found two recently escaped slaves, a black man and his wife, and, suspecting they were the murderers, hanged them. Many years later another black man on his deathbed confessed to the crime.

Over the years I have always wondered how much of the story was true and how much was fiction. While researching my family tree I was on the alert for any written record of the story. The first reference I found was in Hebert's *Southwest Louisiana Records*. An entry in the records of St. John Catholic Church in Lafayette simply stated that Louis Simon and his wife, Marie-Louise Trahan, were assassinated in their home on 18 October 1859 and were buried on 20 October 1859. This record provided the names of my ancestors who were murdered in the old house and verified the date of the murder. Recently while reading the book, *Vigilante Committees of the Attakapas*, I found another mention of the story. Pages 48 and 49 of the book gives the following account:

In Vermillion Parish lived two old people, who for more than a half century, had lived side by side in obscurity, like the wild flowers which blossom in the neighboring woods. With them no epic, no sweet romance of youth, no harvest or souvenirs amassed to enchant their old age. One day, about fifty years ago, they were married and the day of their marriage they began to work.

The wife had been spinning, that work of Homer's time, which is still ours today in our countryside. The husband had bent over the plow, and they had started to sing and sail over the sea of life, a rough sea full of tempests for those with immoderate ambitions, but sweet and gentle to those who ask God only for their daily bread. They had several children. After having brought them up with loving care and establishing them, they had acquired a passion for something else--money. All of us need some hobby or love.

This passion for money had come to them and they worked, and economized and deprived themselves each day of crumbs of bread in order that these crumbs could change at first to cents, then piastres, then into a fortune. The fortune that had come to them was not the fortune of the Rothschilds, which would have driven them insane, but a poor humble fortune which would have made the least of the unlicensed brokers of New Orleans smile. It amounted to about four thousand dollars.

For that great fortune they had a safe which they had ordered after long and sound deliberations which had excited more than one tempest at the corner of the hearth. When the safe arrived they had placed it triumphantly between the mantle and the nuptial bed which had for forty years received the hosts. The neighbors had seen the safe of the Simon couple (I had forgotten their name then) and had believed them very rich. Then one cold November day in 1859, a young girl, their daughter, going barefooted to see the Simon couple, saw a thick column of smoke coming out of the doors, the windows, and the only chimney of the house. She uttered a horrified cry which aroused the neighbors. Two pools of blood stained the yard in two different directions. In the principal room, the mattress, cloths, and effects of the house had been heaped together and set on fire, but they burned slowly because of the lack of air. Under a piece of cloth lay two bodies carbonized by the fire, and no longer having human forms. Farther away the safe bore scars which indicated that it had been attacked with an ax, a knife, and a handspike, but it kept faithfully the deposits of its master.

The Simons had thus been the victims of three crimes: theft, arson, and assassination.

This account verified the story of the old house, but in this case the oral history was more accurate than the written account. It was the granddaughter who was the first to arrive at the scene of the crime, not the daughter. Also, the month cited in the written account was in error. The crime took place in October, not November, 1859, as stated in the written account.

A note in the aforementioned book made reference to an article in the October 29, 1859, issue of the *Opelousas Courier*. With the help of the Vicksburgh-Warren County Library I was able to find a copy of this article in the McNeese State University Library.

Based on the written accounts, I am now satisfied that the story of the old house, which was passed on from my great-grandmother to my grandfather and my father and then to me, is true. The old house still exists on a small piece of property I own in Lafayette Parish. Unfortunately the house is in a deteriorated condition and may not last much longer. However, I hope that the story of the old house will continue to be passed on to future generations. I am optimistic about this because when I showed my son this article he reminded me that when he was a youngster he had crawled under the old house with me so that I could show him the charred floor beams after I told him the story of the old house.

# Simon Genealogy

Compiled by Charles C. Trahan

I. JEAN-BAPTISTE SIMON (b 1763) from Rennes, France, son of Rene Simon and Sebastienne Monnier, married in 1785 Marie-Magdeleine Aucoin (b 8 Jan 1768) from Belle-Isle, France, daughter of Alexandre Aucoin and Isabelle Duhon. Both sailed from France to Louisiana aboard the ship, *L'Amite* which departed from Paimboef, France, on 12 August 1785 and arrived in New Orleans on 7 November 1785. The list of passengers leaving France, which was compiled by the French, listed Marie-Magdeleine with her widowed mother, but it did not include Jean-Baptiste Simon. The list of passengers arriving in New Orleans, compiled by the Spanish, which listed only the heads of families and single men, included the name of Jean-Baptiste Simon. This discrepancy is not unusual because the French list was made some time before the ship departed and was incomplete. The couple was married on 13 November 1785 in the St. Louis Church in New Orleans, just six days after the ship arrived. They settled in the Attakapas area and had the following children:

1. Charles b 17 May 1786 m 2 Jul 1807 Madeleine Granger
2. Jean-Baptiste m 13 Nov 1810 Francise Trahan m 7 Apr 1817 Celestine Granger
3. Louis b 1789 m 20 Aug 1811 Marie-Louise Trahan b 1792
4. Marie-Felonise b 11 Nov 1795 m 23 Nov 1811 Frederick Hebert 24 Jul 1792
5. Belone b 13 Oct 1797 m 8 Jul 1817 Pelagie Boudreau b 15 Mar 1800
6. Marie-Ursule b 26 Dec 1799 m 10 Apr 1816 Louis Broussard 25 Aug 1777
7. Elol b 1 May 1802 m 15 Jan 1821 Adelaide Boudreau 23 Apr 1802
8. Isabelle b 18 July 1804 m 14 Jan 1821 Philemon Boudreau b 30 Apr 1798
9. Marguerite b 7 May 1807 m 13 Dec 1824 Francois Boudreau 11 Oct 1807

II. LOUIS SIMON (b 1789) married on 20 August 1811 Marie-Louise Trahan (b 1792) daughter of Jean-Baptiste Trahan and Marie Trahan. They lived in Lafayette Parish. Records at the St. John Catholic Church in Lafayette show that both were assassinated in their homes on 18 October 1859 and were buried two days later. The couple's children include:

1. Louis b 10 Oct 1812 m 5 Feb 1838 Scholastica Leger b Oct 1823
2. Marie-Cidalise b 6 June 1815 m 2 Jun 1834 Pierre Cormier 26 Mar 1815
3. Edmond b 23 Oct 1817 m 25 Mar 1837 Pelagie Gaulbert
4. Edouard b 2 Dec 1819 d 23 Oct 1833
5. Eugene b 15 Jan 1822 m 25 Oct 1841 Elizabeth Whittington b Jan 1824
6. Desire b 15 Feb 1824 d 21 Sept 1832
7. Eugenie b 7 May 1832 m 9 Aug 1841 Onezime Cormier 14 Aug 1820
8. Marie-Eulise b 1 May 1832 m 11 Feb 1850 John Whittington b 2 Mar 1828
9. Melise d 25 Dec 1836 at age one year

III. EUGENE b 15 Jan 1842 married on 25 October 1841 to Elizabeth Whittington b January 1824, the daughter of James Whittington and Elizabeth Sellers. He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Their children:

1. Elizabeth b 9 Nov 1842 m 5 Apr 1858 Pierre Trahan b 8 Oct 1837
2. Emeline b 19 Sept 1847 m Alphonse Fontenot
3. Virginie b 1 Aug 1850 m 7 May 1868 Raymond Trahan b 31 Aug 1838
4. Jean-Baptiste b 1 April 1853 m 20 Feb 1781 Emilie Trahan
5. Pierre b 6 Nov 1855 m 25 Jan 1875 Elizabeth Clark b 3 Aug 1857
6. Raymond b 6 Nov 1855 m 14 Sept 1877 Marie-Donatille Whittington b 21 Oct 1857
7. Jules b 22 Jan 1861
8. Marie b May 1866



# THE LABRY FAMILIES OF LOUISIANA

by Purvis J. Hebert

There are two known Labry (sometimes Labrie, Mignot, Mignau, Miot) family groups in Louisiana. The relationship, if any, between the two groups is not known.

The first group descends from Joseph Marie MIOT married 5 Sept 1769 to Gabrielle Legros at Pointe Coupee, Louisiana. The parents of Joseph were Charles Mignau and Madeleine Aubert of Quebec, Canada. Michelle Heiderer, 16315 Jim Creek Road, Arlington, Washington, 98223 has additional information on this family in Canada before 1800. The known children of Joseph and Gabrielle are:

1. Gabrielle Emilie born 5 May 1771, died 15 Feb 1773 at Pointe Coupee, Louisiana.
2. Therese Dorothe born 1 June 1773 at Pointe Coupee.
3. Anne Emilie born 20 December 1777 at Pointe Coupee, married 27 August 1793 Michel Lejeune at Pointe Coupee.
4. Alexandre married 23 January 1812 Melanie Vignes at Pointe Coupee.

The second group descends from Joseph Aristide Labry born in France and married to Caroline Taylor. Nothing is known about Joseph Aristide Labry before the 1850 census of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana.

The known children of Joseph and Caroline are:

1. Elizabeth born 29 October 1848 at St. Martinville, Louisiana, married 23 October 1866 Fergus Bernard.
2. Daphnis Desire Stanislas born 19 October 1849, married 14 September 1868 Elodie Abshire at Abbeville, Louisiana.
3. Ernestine died 5 July 1857 at Lafayette, Louisiana.
4. Madelise born 9 December 1853 at St. Martinville, died 1 October 1855 at Lafayette.

Information on the Labry families has been obtained from the following sources:

*Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records*, volumes 1-3.

*Southwest Louisiana Records* by Donald J. Hebert.

Emancipation Petition made by Daphnis Desire Stanislas Labry dated 4 June 1868. The document is housed at the Lafayette Parish Court House.

Information about Joseph Aristide Labry before 1850 would be appreciated and information may be mailed to Purvis Hebert, 520 East Demanade Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70501.

# THE PREJEAN FAMILY: SOME FACTS

Submitted by *Edward Prejean*

## In Acadia

Probably born somewhere in Bretagne (Brittany), Jean Prejean dit Le Breton arrived in Acadia about 1671. The fact that he was recorded as a fisherman on an Acadian census of 1700 would indicate that he was born in or near one of the coastal cities of Brittany. Draining salt marshes using aboiteaus was an adaptation used in Brittany to prevent salt water from invading their lands and destroying their crops-- another indication that the early settlers (or at least some of them) came from the coastal regions of Brittany. I recall hearing my father say the family came from Reims--I suppose he was saying Rennes and I didn't have enough knowledge or interest to realize the difference or significance thereof. Rennes, France, was the capital of the province of Bretagne prior to 1791 when it was divided into five departments.

Jean Prejean married Andree Savole and made his home in Port Royal for the major part of his life. His children, 8 sons and 4 daughters were all born at Port Royal.

Census records for the years 1686 through 1714 show a gradual accumulation of agricultural wealth for the family:

1. In 1686 Jean Prejean owned 1 pig, and 1 valuable arpent of land
2. 1693, 6 horned animals, 8 sheep, 5 pigs, and 14 arpents of land
3. 1698, 17 cows, 19 sheep, 5 pigs, and 8 arpents of land
4. 1700, 7 cows, 6 sheep, and 14 arpents of land
5. 1701, 16 cows, 10 sheep, 12 pigs, 3 arpents of land
6. 1703, 3 filles, 4 fils, 1 capable of bearing arms

The greatest (oldest) grandfather that we have was born in France in 1651 -- went to Acadia, settled at Port Royal and married Andree Savole (our oldest great grandmother) who was born in 1667. The couple was married at Port Royal about 1683 -- we are descended through one of Jean's sons named Joseph.

Joseph was born at Port Royal, Acadia in 1696 and married Marie Louise Comeau, born at Port Royal in 1703. From this marriage on September 28, 1723, there were born six children: Marguerite, Anne, Joseph, Basille, Charles, and Amable.

## In New Orleans

The Prejean families who arrived at New Orleans with a group of two hundred and sixteen Acadian (prisoners) directly from Nova Scotia in the autumn of 1766 along with others, settled the first Acadian colony at St. Jacques de Cabohannocce (now St. James). They arrived on board a British ship.

Many of these two hundred and sixteen had been prisoners at Halifax and at other sites and opted to go to Louisiana after the Treaty of Paris in 1763, a time during which many families were returning to Canada and Nova Scotia to resettle there from the eastern coast of the United States.

The Treaty of Paris also gave the Louisiana territory to Spain. Therefore when the Acadians arrived, they settled not in French but in Spanish dominated and owned territory. The territory contained some twenty military or governing districts that were not exactly defined as far as geographical boundaries were concerned.

Prior to 1766 some Acadian exiles settled in St. James and others settled around the village of Chitimachas. St. James had been receiving Acadians since after 1756 and this region became known as the "Acadian Coast."

In the year 1778 immigrants from the Canary Islands were brought to Louisiana and the military post of Valenzuela was established. In 1785 Acadian families from France were settled at Valenzuela.

In 1803 the Louisiana Purchase materialized and the Louisiana territory became part of the United States.

The Spanish were sympathetic to the plight of the Acadians and helped them in many ways to resettle. The greatest help was in land grants to the Acadians.

The Prejeans that arrived with these first Acadian settlers in Louisiana had been prisoners at Ft. Edouard (now Windsor, then Pisiquid). At Fort Edouard on October 11, 1762 were: Joseph, Charles, Armand, and Basille with their families as follows:

Amand, age 43; his wife Magdelaine age 44; sons, Martin, Marin 15, Joseph 6, Andre 1; Anne, age 13 and Anastasia

Joseph, age 33; his wife, Marguerite Durel, 29; children, Jean Baptiste; Victoire age 5

Charles, age 29; his wife, Marguerite Richard 20

Basille, age 29; his wife Marie Lincour 28; children, Uzebe Arseneaux (stepson) age 4, and Pierre Arseneaux (another stepson) age 2

(the ages of all the brothers and family members were determined from census records of Bayou Lafourche, 1770 and 1777.

Records indicate that Joseph Prejean's brother, Armand, married to Magdelaine Martin age 38 received lot #33 in 1769 on the west bank of the Mississippi River. In 1766 Basil Prejean and his wife, Marie Lincour, were given lot #31; Charles received lot #36 in 1769 and Joseph in 1769 received lot #35.

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#### Sketches of Nineteenth-Century Acadians Appearing in Scribner's Magazine



BY ETIENNE DESROSIERS



BY MARGUERITE DUREL

# YELLOW FEVER

Submitted by Carl Brasseaux

We reproduce here, from the *Franklin Planter's Banner* of October 26, 1867, a list of yellow fever victims  
from the following towns:

## St. Martinville

Anatole Coudroy  
Major Bart  
Mlle. B. Ducrest  
Mme. P. Champagne  
Enfant de P. Louvière  
Mlle. A. Babino  
Mme. Champagne  
Enfant de J. S. Loreau  
Mme. J. D. Babino  
Chas. Voorhies  
Mme. A. L. Champagne  
H. Rendoudet  
Mme. E. Cormier  
Ovide Jones  
Evaltin Bonin  
Enfant de A. Francois  
Enfant de Jos. Prad  
Enfant de A. Prad  
Mlle. C. Sonnier  
Mlle. Alice Babin  
Arthur Cormier  
Enfant de C. Lasseigne  
Devins Babin  
Aristide Dugas  
Veuve J. Allegre  
Enfant de D. Babin  
Victor Guerguot  
Mme. Michel Babin  
Enfant de C. Lasseigne  
Emile Yarde  
J. H. B. Garry  
Capt. C. Tertrou  
Godefroy Bérard  
J. B. Gastord [sic]  
Emile Guilbeau  
Enfant de Rabb  
Enfant de J. Doré  
Eusèbe Bienvenu

Miss G. Allemand  
J. Jackson et enfant  
Adolphe Lasalle  
Mme. J. Landry et fils  
Ovide Dugas  
Mlle. Ovide Dugas  
5 enfants de J. D. Broussard  
René Rendoudet  
Mme. D. C. Deblanc  
Enfant de J. Micaud  
Mlle. A. Francois  
Mme. Dugas et enfant  
Bélisaire Herlin (Hulin?)  
Enfant de E. Cormier  
F. Mayard, fils et fille  
Clerville Lasseigne  
A. Broussard et fils  
Joseph Locker  
Pierre Garry  
Mme. A. Nepveux  
2 enfants of D. Pellerin  
August Nepveux  
Gervais Witty  
Enfant de Gourguot  
Mlle. L. Bertrand  
E. LeNormand  
Omer Guilbeau  
Mme. B. Romero  
Mme. Jules Guilbeau  
Enfant de J. Guilbeau  
Enfant de Ennis  
Sevique Bienvenu  
Jacques Potier  
Alexandre Potier  
Julien Bouillon  
Joseph Bourg  
Michel Babin  
Elyse Guilbeau, Jr.

# St. Martinville, Continued

Enfant de V. Martin  
P. McNeal et femme  
Mme. Joseph Garry  
Alcide Barras  
J. B. Bonin  
Mme. Alex Babin  
Mme. P. Broussard  
Emile Dècuir  
Jules Guilbeau

Omer Landry  
Enfant de G. Conday  
Horace Martin  
Mme. J. B. Dautreuil  
Leo Champagne  
St. Dennis Deblanc  
Mme. E. Guilbeau  
Salvadore Doré  
Ozème Thibodaux

## Vermillionville

Albert Bégnod  
Horace T. Voorhies  
Pierre Benoit  
Enfant de S. Landry  
Etienne Pambouef  
Enfant de couleur  
Jack Neveu, c.

Mme. Comeau  
Mme. H. Mesomier  
Mme. H. Mesomier, Jr.  
A. Guidry  
Mme. Aug. Guidry  
Père Viaux  
Fille de A. J. Meau

## Jeanerette

Celestin Provost  
Mme. S. Provost  
Norbert Provost  
Mme. N. Provost  
Lucien Provost  
Mme. L. Provost  
Mlle. Aurélie Provost

Enfant de N. Provost  
Ernest McCarty  
Louise McCarty  
Mme. O. Ditch  
Fille de L. Filot  
Fille de H. Filot  
Enfant de couleur

Reported in the Opelousas *Courier*, November, 2, 1867.

# ACADIAN SURNAMES IN ACADIA: Compiled by an anonymous Canadian listing the place of settlement of the early Acadians

Submitted by *Pearl Mary Segura*

## Abbreviations for Settlements

- Beau-- Beaubassin (Amherst, Nova Scotia)
- Chip-- Chipoudy (Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick)
- Cob-- Cobequid (Truro, Nova Scotia)
- G. P.- Grand Pre (Grand Pre, Nova Scotia)
- I. R.-- Ile Royale (Cape Breton, Nova Scotia)
- P. E. I.--Ile Saint Jean (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia)
- Piz-- Piziquid [Pisiquit] (Windsor, Nova Scotia)
- P. R.-- Port Royal (Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia)
- P'tit-- Peticoudiac (Hillsborough, New Brunswick)
- Pub-- Pobomcoup [Cap Sable] (Pubnico, Nova Scotia)
- Rde C-- Riviere aux Canards (Canard River, King's County Nova Scotia)
- Rest-- Ristigouche (Restigouche, Quebec)
- S. J.-- Riviere St. Jean (Nova Scotia)

This list was received by Dr. Gary Clark of 7748 Bellestrone Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63119 from the Superintendent of the Grand Pre Historic Park in Grand Pre, Nova Scotia BOP IMO on the occasion of a recent visit to the park. Dr. Clark is the grandson of Mrs. Hilda Hebert Bacon of Kaplan, La. The list should be of particular interest to those wishing to visit the original locations of homes of their Acadian ancestors.

## --A,B,C--

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Abbadie, de Saint Castin d', St. J        | Bodard, Piz                           |
| Allain, PEI, PR, GP, IR                   | Boisseau dit Blondin, IR, PEI, GP     |
| Amerault dit Tourangeau, Pub, PR, Chip    | Bonnevie dit Beaumont, PR             |
| Angou dit Choisy, PEI                     | Bonniere, IR, PEI                     |
| Apart, IR, GP                             | Borel, Beau                           |
| Arosteguy, Cob, IR                        | Boucher dit Desroches, IR, GP         |
| Arseneau, IR, PR, Beau, Piz, PEI, Res     | Boudrot, PEI, PR, GP, Piz, Beau,      |
| Rest, IR,                                 | RdeC                                  |
| Amaud, Rest, GP, IR, PR                   | Bour?                                 |
| Aubois, PR, Pub                           | Bourg, GP, RdeC, Cob                  |
| Aucoin, P'Tit, IR, Rest, Beau, PEI        | Bourgeois, PEI, St.J, PR, Rest, IR    |
| Ayot, Beau                                | Boutin, Piz, IR                       |
| Babin, PR, GP, Piz, Rest                  | Brassaud, Rest, PEI, GP               |
| Babineau dit Deslauriers, Rest, P'Tit, PR | Brasseur dit Mathieu, Rest            |
| Barillot, IR, PEI, Piz                    | Breau, RdeC, Piz, P'Tit, Chip, Rest   |
| Barolet                                   | Broussard, P'Tit, Chip, Piz           |
| Bastarache dit (Le) Basque, PR            | Brun, PR, Beau                        |
| Bastien, Beau                             | Bugaret, ?                            |
| Belliveau dit Bideau, PEI, Beau, IR, PR   | Buisson, Beau                         |
| Belou, PR, Beau                           | Bugeaud, Beau, IR, PEI, Rest, GP, Piz |
| Bergeron d'Amboise, Beau, PEI, PR         | Buote, Beau                           |
| dit Nantes, St.J, PR                      | Buteau, IR, Beau                      |

dit Nantes, StJ, PR  
 Berrier dit Machefer  
 Bernard, PEI, Beau, Rest, IR  
 Bertaud dit Montauray, IR, PEI  
 Bertrand, PR, GP, Chip, IR  
 Bezier dit Touin dit Lariviere, PR  
 Blanchard, PEI, PR, GP, P'Tit, Beau, IR  
 Blanchard dit Gentilhomme, PEI  
 Chauvet, PEI, PR, Piz  
 Chenet dit Debreuil, PR  
 Chesnay dit Lagarenne, PEI  
 Chiasson dit La Vallee, IR, PEI, GP, Beau  
 Chouteau dit Manseau, PR  
 Clemenceau, PR, Beau  
 Cloistre, GP  
 Coignac, PR, RdeC  
 Cormier dit Rossignol, PR, Beau  
 dit Thierry, IR, PR, Beau

Buteau, IR, Beau  
 Cahouet, PR  
 Caissy dit Roger, IR, PR, Beau  
 Calve dit Laforge, PR  
 Carre, Beau  
 Caylah  
 Celestin dit Bellemere, GP  
 Cellier dit Normand, IR, PEI, GP  
 Corne, PR  
 Corporon, PR, Piz  
 Cosset, PEI, Beau  
 Coste, IR, PR  
 Cottard, Beau  
 Cousin, Pub, IR  
 Crepeaux, PR  
 Creysac dit Toulouse?  
 Cyr, IR, PEI, PR, Beau, GP, Piz

-D-

Daigre, PR, Beau, RdeC, Piz, PEI  
 D'Amours de Chaffours, StJ, PR  
 de Clignancour, StJ  
 de Freneuse, StJ  
 de Louviere, StJ  
 de Plaine, StJ  
 Daniel ?  
 Danielle?  
 Darois, P'Tit, RdeC  
 David dit Pontil, PEI, GP  
 Mayard, PEI, GP, IR, Chip, PR  
 Delisle, P'Tit  
 Denis, PR, Piz, Rest, PEI  
 Denys de Fronsac, IR  
 Derayer, Beau  
 Deschamps dit Cloche, IR, PEI  
 Desgoutins, PR, PEI  
 Duon dit Lyonnais, PR, RdeC  
 Dupuis, PR, Rest, RdeC, GP,

Desmoillons, PEI  
 Despres, PR  
 Deveau dit Dauphine, IR, Beau, PR, PEI  
 Dingle, GP  
 Dolron, PEI, P'Tit, Beau, Piz, Cob, IR  
 Domine dit Saint-Saveur, Beau  
 Douce dit Laverdure, IR, PEI, GP, PR  
 dit Liranois, PEI, GP, IR, Chip, PR  
 dit Mayard, PEI, GP, IR, Chip, PR  
 Dru?  
 Drus?  
 Druce, GP  
 Dubois, GP, P'Tit, PEI  
 Dubois dit Dumont, IR, PEI, PR  
 Dufaut, Beau, PEI  
 Dugas, PEI, IR, PR, Beau, GP, Cob, Pub  
 Duguay, Beau, Rest, PEI  
 Duplessis, PEI, GP, IR

-E, F, G-

Egan, PR  
 Flan, PR  
 Fontaine dit Beaulieu, IR, PR  
 Forest, PEI, StJ, IR, PR, Beau, Piz  
 Forton, Cape Sable  
 Fougere, PR, IR  
 Fournier, IR  
 Froiquingont, IR, PEI  
 Gadua, Beau  
 Galeme, Piz

Godin dit Catalogne, ?  
 dit Chatillon StJ, PR, Beau  
 dit Lancour, StJ  
 dit Preville, ?  
 dit Valcour, StJ  
 Gosselin, IR  
 Gourdeau, PR  
 Gousman, PR, Rest, PEI  
 Gouzeille, PR  
 Grandmaison, ?

Galle, Beau, PEI  
 Garceau dit Boutin, IR, PR  
   dit Richard, IR, PR  
   dit Tranchemontagne, PR, Chip  
 Gareau, PR  
 Gaudet, Piz, Chip, PEI, P'Tit, PR, Beau, Rest, IR  
 Gauterot, PR, Rest, GP, Piz, Cob, IR, PEI  
 Gauthier, Beau, PEI, PR, Rest, IR  
 Gentil, Pub  
 Giboire Duverge dit Lamotte, ?  
 Girouard, PEI, IR, PR, Beau, Rest, Piz  
 Gise dit Desrosiers, ?  
 Godin dit Beausejour; dit Boisjoli; dit Chatillon, Beau  
   dit Bellefeuille; Beau  
   dit Lincour; dit Valcour, StJ

-H,I,J,K--

Hache dit Gallant, IR, Rest, Beau, PEI  
 Hamel, ?  
 Hamet, IR  
 Hamon, ?  
 Hebert dit Manuel, Cob, RdeC, PR, GP, Piz, Beau  
 Helys dit Nouvelle, Beau  
 Henry dit Robert, StJ, IR, Beau, PEI, PR, Cob

-L-

LaBarre, Beau  
 Labat, dit Le Marquis, de, PR  
 La Bauve, IR, PEI, PR, GP, Beau, Rest  
 La Chaume, PR  
 La Croix, IR, PEI  
 La Lande dit Bonappetit, P'Tit, Pub, PR  
 Lambert, Beau, IR  
 Lambourt, Beau  
 Landron, ?  
 Landry, PEI, IR, Piz, RdeC, Beau, PR, GP, Rest  
 Langlois, PEI, IR, PR < Beau, Rest  
 Lanoue, Chip, PR, Beau  
 La Pierre dit La Roche, GP, Beau, Chip  
 La Vache, IR, PEI  
 Lavergne, PR  
 La Vigne, PR, IR  
 Lebert dit Jolycoeur, GP, PR  
 Leblanc, Rest, Chip, Pub, PEI, IR < PR, RdeC, GP, Piz  
 Le Blanc dit Jasmin, PR  
 Le Borgne de Belisle, PR, GP, IR  
 Le Clerc dit Laverdure, PR  
 Lecul, PR  
 Leger dit La Rozette, P'Tit, Chip, PR

-M-

Maffier, ?

Granger, PR, Beau, GP, RdeC  
 Gravois, Beau, Rest  
 Grosvalet, PR  
 Guedry dit Grivois, PEI, IR, PR, Cob  
   dit Labine, PR  
   dit Labrador, PR, IR  
 Gueguen, PR  
 Guenard, ?  
 Guerin, PEI, IR, PR, Cob  
 Guerin dit Laforge, ?  
 Guilbeau, StJ, PR  
 Guillot dit Langevin, IR, PEI, Cob  
 Guy Tintamar, ?  
 Guyon, ?

Hensaule, ?  
 Heon, Beau  
 Heuse, PEI  
 Hugon, Beau  
 Jeanson, PR  
 Joseph, PR, IR  
 Kimine, IR, Beau, PEI

Le Jeune dit Briard, IR, PEI, Pub, PR, Piz  
 Le Juge,  
 Le Marquis dit Clermont, PEI  
 Le Mire, Piz  
 Le Neuf de Beaubassin, Beau  
   de Buisneuf, ?  
   de La Valliere, Beau  
 L'Enfant, PEI  
 Le Poupet de Saint-Aubin, ?  
 Le Prieur dit Dubois, IR, PEI, PR  
 Le Prince, IR, PEI, PR, Piz  
 Leroy, PR, IR, PEI  
 L'Eschevin dit Billy, Beau  
 La Vanier dit Langevin, PR  
 Lavasseur dit Chamberlange, Beau  
 Levron dit Nontois, Chip, PR  
 Loiseau, ?  
 Long, PR  
 Longuepee, IR, Cob  
 Loppinot, PR, Rest  
 Lord dit La Montagne, PR, Chip  
 Lucas, IR, PEI

Mercier dit Caudebec, IR, Beau



Maisonnat dit Baptiste, PR,Beau  
 Malbouef, Beau  
 Mangeant dit Saint-Germain, GP  
 Marcadet,Piz  
 Marchand dit Polliers,GP,IR,PR  
 Marres dit La Sonde,Musquodoboit  
 Martel,IR  
 Martin,P'Tit,Cob,PEI,Chip,IR  
 Martin dit Barnabe,IR,PEI,PR,Beau  
 Masse,PEI  
 Massie,Piz  
 Mathieu, IR,PR,PEI  
 Maucaire, PR  
 Mazerolle dit Saint-Louis,PR,GP  
 Melanson dit Laverdure,Rest,IR,PEI,RdeC,GP,PR  
 Melanson dit La Ramee,IR,PEI,RdeC,Beau,GP,PR

—N, O, P—

Naquin dit L'Etoile,IE,PEI,PR  
 Nogues,IR,PEI  
 Nuirat,Beau,Rest  
 Olivier,IR,PEI,PR,Piz,Beau  
 Onel (O'Neale),Beau  
 Orillon dit Champagne,PR, Beau  
 Oudy,IR,Beau  
 Ozelet,Cob  
 Part dit Laforest,PEI,PR,GP  
 Pellerin,Beau,PR,GP  
 Petitot dit Saint-Scoine, PR  
 Petitpas, IR,PR  
 Pichot,GP,IR

—R, S, T—

Racais dit Desrosiers, GP  
 Raymond,IR,PR  
 Renaud dit Provencal,IR,Rest,PEI  
 Richard,Beau,PEI,Piz,PR,RdeC,IR,Rest,GP,  
 Richard dit Sanssoucy,Beau,PR,GP  
 Richard dit Beaupre,Beau,RdeC,GP,PR  
     dit Boutin,IR,RdeC,GP,PR  
     dit Lafont,RdeC,GP,PR  
 Rimbeau,GP,PR  
 Rivet,Piz  
 Robichaud dit Cadet,IR,Rest,PEI,GP,Cob,PR and  
     dit Niganne and  
     dit Prudent  
 Rodohan, ?  
 Rodrigue dit de Fonds, PR  
 Rousse dit Languedoc,,Chip  
 Roy dit La Liberte,StJ,Piz,IR,GP,PR  
 Rullier,IR,PEI

Meunier, GP,PEI  
 Michel dit La Ruine, IR,PEI,PR,Piz  
 Migneau dit Aubin, Beau  
 Mignier dit Lagasse, ?  
 Mirande,IR,Beau,P'Tit  
 Mius d'Azit, PR  
 Mius d'Entremont de Piemarais,PR,Pub  
     de Pobomcoup,PR,Pub  
 Monmellian dit Saint-Germain,IR,GP  
 Mordant,GP  
 Morin dit Boucher,Rest,PR,Beau  
 Morpain, PR  
 Moulaison dit Recontre, Pub  
 Mouton,PR,GP,Beau  
 Moyse dit Latreille,PEI,PR

Picot,PR  
 Pincer,Beau  
 Pinet,IR,PEI,GP  
 Pitre dit Marc,IR,PEI,GP,Chip,Beau,PR  
 Poirier,IR,PEI,PR,Beau  
 Poujet dit Lapierre,PR,IR  
 Poupart,GP  
 Prejean dit Breton,Rest,GP,IR,Chip,PEI  
 Pretieux,IR,Beau,PEI  
 Pugnant dit Destouches, PR

Savary,IR,PR,PEI  
 Savole,GP,PR,Rest,Chip  
 Semer,GP  
 Serreau de Saint-Aubin,StJ  
 Sicot,PR  
 Simon dit Boucher,IR,PEI,PR  
 Soulard,PR  
 Soulevant,PR  
 Surette,P'Tit,RdeC,PR,Gp  
 Tandau,Beau  
 Terriot,IR,PEI,PR,RdeC,Beau  
 Testard dit Paris,IR,PEI,Pub,Pr,Gp  
 Thebeau,PR,GP  
 Thibault,PR  
 Thibodeau,PEI,PR,RdeC,Piz,IR,Rest  
 Tillard,PR,Piz  
 Tourneur,PR  
 Toussant dit Lajeunesse, PEI

Saindon, StJ,PR  
 Saint-Etienne de la Tour de, IR, Pub  
 Saint-Julien le La Chaussee,  
 Samson,Beau,IR,PR,PEI  
 Saulnier dit Lacouline,IR,RdeC,P'Tit  
 Sauvage dit Forgeron and  
 dit Chrystophe,IR,GP

Trahan,IR,PEI,PR,Piz,P'Tit  
 Triel dit La Perriere,PR  
 Turcot,PEI  
 Turpin dit La Giroflee,IR,Cob,PR

-V-

Vallois, ?  
 Vescot,IR,PEI,Beau  
 Viger, Pub  
 Vigneau dit Maurice, Rest,IR,PR,Beau

Villatte, PR, Pub  
 Vincent Clement,IR,PEI,PR,Piz  
 Voyer, Piz

# St. Mary Parish Judges 1809-1842 Compiled by William T. Shinn

Testimony in Suit 167, District Court, sets out that James White became parish judge in 1807 and died in December, 1809.

June 26, 1813 -- Bond of Jehu Wilkinson, COB BA page 87, No., 154

March 10, 1814 -- Bond of Jehu Wilkinson, COB BA page 95, No., 168

February 12, 1829 -- Bond of Joshua Baker, having been appointed by Peter Derbigny, Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. MOB B-4 page 350, No., 799

July 21, 1832 -- Bond of Donelson Caffery, having been appointed and commissioned June 2, 1832. MOB C-6 page 61, No., 426.

June 22, 1833 -- John Moore, Parish Judge, presiding Minute Book 1833-1845, page 30

January 13, 1840 -- John Moore, Parish Judge, presiding Minute Book 1833-1845, page 169

March 27, 1840 -- Oath of William Taylor Palfrey, taken by Edouard Pecot, J. P. Oaths 1835-95 page 14

March 27, 1840 -- Bond of William Taylor Palfrey, he having been appointed. MOB 10 page 79, No., 4782; SS-2 page 87

March 19, 1842 -- Oath of Jean Adolph Dumartrait, taken by Sn. Salles, Sr. J. P. Oaths 1835-95 page 31

March 19, 1842 -- Bond of John A. Dumartrait, with Charles Gravemberg, security. Oaths 1835-95 page 30; MOB 10 page 496, No., 5175

# LOCAL AND STATE DEATHS REPORTED IN THE LAFAYETTE ADVERTISER IN 1869

Compiled by *Al Bethard*  
Translations by *Ron Bodin*

*The Lafayette Advertiser* published weekly at Vermilionville, began publication in 1865. Backfiles of the *Advertiser* in USL's Dupre Library begin in 1869. The following issues for 1869 are not available: 27 February, 24 July, and 9 October through the end of the year.

Archer, Dr. 28 August 1869, page 3, column 3.

This physician, erudite and of rare talent, practiced medicine in our parish since 1837. An immigrant to Louisiana, Dr. Archer died in our city last Wednesday at the age of 63. Born in Lyon France, M. Archer, if we are not mistaken, was the son of the President of a French judicial court. Dr. Archer's death will have an impact on our population who are still unaccustomed to the ways of American medicine and practitioners. Having a large medical practice, the doctor could have amassed a fortune, but his modest tastes meant that he did not indulge his excesses and did not accrue great wealth in his thirty year practice.

Dupre, Hon. Lucius Jacques. 13 March 1869, page 2, column 1.

In Memoriam. State of Louisiana, Parish of Lafayette, Parish Court, Monday, March 8th, 1869. Court met pursuant to adjournment. After delivery of an appropriate and feeling address, by leave of the court, William Mouton, Esq., submitted the following resolutions which were ordered to be spread upon the minutes: Whereas, it has pleased the Supreme Master of the Universe to withdraw from our midst the Hon. Lucius Jacques Dupre, be it resolved that in his untimely demise we, the members and officers of this Bar, do mourn the loss of one of the brightest lights of the profession and a noble example of every civil and social virtue; that we do extend to his bereaved family our most heartfelt sympathies. It being the unanimous desire of the members of the Bar, and meeting the approval of the court, in honor to the memory of the lamented and esteemed deceased court adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. A true and correct copy from the minutes. A. J. Moss, Parish Judge.

Guidry, Eloï. 28 August 1869, page 2, column 5 (English) page 3, column 3 (French)

Died at his residence on Cote Gelee on the 21st inst., Mr. Eloï Guidry, aged 36 years. The deceased was a native of this parish and descended from that noble old Acadian race, who first settled our Attakapas prairies. Born of most respectable parentage, he early in his life married into one of the most esteemed families in the parish. His life was one marked with all those virtues that one can commend to the esteem of his fellows; in private intercourse he was kind and affable, as a citizen he was a truly honest and faithful observer of the laws of the land. A widow and three orphans mourn his untimely loss brought on by untiring industry, more than by the wear of age, and society mourns the loss of one of her most worthy citizens. He is no more. May he in death find but the just reward of his many virtues and worthy deeds.

Haile, E. O. 28 August 1869, page 2, column 2.

Death of E. O. Haile. The personal friends in this city of E. O. Haile (extensively known as a humorous contributor to the press under the name of "A. Head.") have been pained, though not surprised, by a dispatch apprising them of his death at Austin, Texas on the

15th inst. Mr. Haile, as humorist, belonged to the same class as the late Charles Brown ("Artemus Ward") whom he resembled much, not in style, but in social characteristics. They were natives of the same state, Maine, playfellows in boyhood and friends in manhood. But one step was wanting to complete the parallel; it is found in tracing the coincidence of their lives to the very article of death. Both died of pulmonary consumption. A striking as well as a pathetic illustration of the mental mood of the deceased was afforded by a telegram from his own hand the day before his death, commencing thus: "My remains will be on the way to New Orleans in a few days." We understand that they will be brought to this city under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity. (from the New Orleans *Commercial Bulletin*)

Haile, E. O. 4 September 1869, page 2, column 1.

E. O. Haile. A writer in the Austin (Texas) *State Gazette* who was with him at the time of his death speaks of the last moments of E. O. Haile: "He saw the gradual approach of death and would often ask his friends how long they thought he could last, desiring to keep it from his wife as long as possible. On Saturday morning he asked his physician to give him a truthful statement of his condition, and when told he could not live more than twenty-four hours, he went calmly to work arranging his private affairs, dictating and signing letters, conversing pleasantly and cheerfully with his friends, and often, by his sallies of wit, almost causing them to forget they were at the bedside of a dying man. Mr. Haile was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Linwood Lodge of New Orleans. It having been deemed inadvisable to remove his remains, they were interred here with Masonic honors."

McKnight, Major George. 20 February 1869, page 2, column 3.

Death of Major George McKnight. Asa Hartz is dead. This sad news will be received with profound sorrow throughout the South, where George McKnight was well known for his geniality, kindly nature and where his wit and bonhomie had won over to him every member of his profession as well as a great number of citizens in our business. Asa had been suffering for several years past of disease of the lungs which at times would utterly incapacitate him for business and depress his spirits so that he would often allude to his approaching end. He had justly won the title of major in the Army of the Confederacy and was for several months a prisoner of war on Johnson's Island where, with the true spirit which moved him, he organized an amateur dramatic company, which from time to time gave performances for the benefit of the hospital of the prison. One of his regrets was that his early training had not included literary pursuits, and yet his wit and humor in prose and poetry had given him a certain celebrity, which was being improved by application to literature, until his disease had so far impaired his faculties that he became a mere wreck. Asa's history as a newspaper editor is the same as that of many others who were not born under a lucky star, as he thought and would often say. He was twice a husband, having married the second time a Miss Taylor of Virginia now living in this city, whom he leaves with several children to mourn his untimely loss, for George McKnight was only in his thirty-fifth year when he paid the last tribute to immortality. "Asa" was a just man and "precious is the memorial of the just." from the *New Orleans Crescent*

Rand, Rev. Thomas. 20 February 1869, page 2, column 2.

Reverend Thomas Rand died at West Fork, Calcasieu Parish, on the 27th day of January 1869. This intelligence was received with deep regret by our whole community. A native

of Massachusetts, he had been a resident of our state for thirty years, and by steady and uniform practice of the virtues and duties of a Christian and a citizen had secured the esteem and respect of all. The deceased was a professor of merit and talent and a minister of the Baptist Church. Many minds in this parish and St. Landry are bright with his teachings. We do mourn the demise of Rev. Thomas Rand, for he was a good man.

Randall, David A. 31 July 1869, page 3, column 4.

M. David A. Randall, member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, died Thursday July 15 at nine o'clock in the morning. Some of his accomplishments include: Born in Philadelphia in 1791 this grand gentleman resided in Louisiana since 1802. He served in the War of 1814 as a lieutenant in the company of volunteers protecting New Orleans. His death takes from our midst another member of that noble patriot corps of that epoch whose ranks have been seriously depleted in the last few years. David Randall resided in Ascension Parish since the age of 60 and for more than fifty years he served as a member of the Louisiana Bureau, and for some forty years represented his parish in both houses of the Louisiana legislature. Selected Speaker of the House in 1846, in that same year he was appointed by Governor Isaac Johnson as District Judge for the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne, a position he held for seven years. David A. Randall opposed secession. Nonetheless, his loyalties were placed with the flag of his adopted state which had attached itself to the Southern Union and he defended this action to his last breath for which he deserves our respect and esteem. The death of David A. Randall leaves our parish without the services of a good man and our country is without a citizen who lived a long life and who consecrated that life to service to the military and governmental needs of his people.

Rousseau, Major Genral Lovell H. 16 January 1869, page 1, column 3.

Major General Lovell H. Rousseau, commander of this department, died last night at 11pm. On Monday he was in full enjoyment of his health, participating in the pleasures and gayeties which so entirely absorbed the time of our people. But even while receiving the congratulations of those whom had been made his friends by the honorable and chivalrous manner in which he had performed the duties of his position, the hand of an insidious disease was laid upon him and bore him from the scene. Gen. Rousseau was a native of Kentucky, from which state he was sent to West Point, where he at once and during his entire course of study, manifested that ability and capacity which afterwards made him the worthy recipient of distinguished honors and position. As a soldier his reputation was a subject of pride to the people of his native land. During the recent war an officer of the federal army he acquired an honored name by the bravery which, united with a chivalrous regard for the foe against whom his sense of duty arrayed him, marked his military career. Possessing an appearance and manners calculated to win the regard and the admiration of those whom he was thrown into contact, he had obtained and entertained an enviable popularity which makes his loss the more seriously felt. As he assumed command of this department his course was marked by a kind regard for the position of our people and a knowledge of the true attitudes they occupy and of the feeling which controls them. His personal friends... will surely feel his loss, but not more than the people of this state who have felt the influence of his kind and impartial rule. (From the New Orleans Crescent of 8 January 1869)

# TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS FROM THREE PRAIRIE GREIG CEMETERIES

Compiled by Ron Bodin, Jerri and Ray Fletcher

Landry Cemetery near Henry Louisiana: Burial Place for many of Prairie Greig's Early Catholic Settlers--(Inscriptions on tombstones are of those born in the 19th century. Spellings are those as they appear on the tombstones)

Auirs	Mr. Emers Berri 1853-1898
Clement Bertrand Born Dec 22, 1875 Died Dec 25 1905	Felix & Edna Brasseaux
Galbert Brasseaux 1860-1974	Brasseaux ____9 M 1918
Voici Le Reste De Alida Broussard Espouse De M. Dubious Nee Le 6 Juillet 1864 Morte Le 31 Dec. 1892	Albert Broussard LA PVT CO 4 5 INF Aug 1 1898-Oct 4 1918
Alida Broussard Wife of Joseph Mahrer Dubois 1864-1952	Camille Broussard 1834-1911
Voici La Reste De Edes Broussard "Deluca" Ne le 11 De 1873 Mor Le 4 Juillet	"Doc" Broussard Ne Le 5 De Fevrier 1870 Mor Le 25 de Juillet 1872
Emilia Broussard	Emile Broussard CO E LA CAV CSA
Esperie Broussard 4 De Janvier 1873 22 De Aout 1892	Nelson Broussard
Nezia Landry Broussard Born June 8, 1892 Died Dec 10, 1917	Mrs. Charles Commeau Born Dec 28, 1822 Died Jan 28, 1843 Age 74
Cornelius Commeau May 25 1864 Feb 9 1933	Elaine Desormeaus ____1801
Mrs. Edias Dronet	Lastie Dubeois

B. 1848 D. 1904	CO A 7 LA CAV CSA
Elise Landry Dubouis Died Oct 8, 1820 Her Father, Pholemon Landry	Marcel Dugas Jan. 26, 1860 Feb. 27, 1915
Charles Frederick CO B 7 LA CAV CSA	D. C. Harrington
J. C. Harrington	Helen Hebert 1874-1929 Astare Labit July 9 1895 Jan 8 1987
Ollieq Hebert 1892-1961	Landry 1941
Wallace Labit Sept 18, 1893--May 24, 1968	
Adea Landry 1869-1980	Mr. Darbert Landry 1876-1930
Feliciene Landry Jan. 1, 1876 Feb. 18, 1957	Valerin Landry
Walter Landry Nov. 14,1898 Oct. 29,1967	Eloi J. LaSalle Sr. Jan 28, 1870--June 21, 1932
Mr. and Mrs. Valerie LaSalle and Seville	Evie Meyers 1887-1987
Alicin Manceaux Born 1808 Died 1838	Johanna P _____ Dec 17, 1873 March 4, 1911
Floreston J. Primeaux CO F 7 LA CAV CSA	Henry Robichaux Texas PVT LCR 161 INF 36 DR July 6, 1925
Emile Soirez 1883	Edeas Sonnier Born Nov1 1870 Died Ju2,1916
Adler Taylor "Tee Coon"	Gustave Taylor D. 1903
Louis Teibodeaux 1877-1916	Touchet Cloura Bertrand 1893-1901

# Primeaux Family Cemetery:

The Burial Place for Nineteenth-Century Residents of Prairie Greig who Resided Nearer to Erath and Bayou Tigre

(the majority of these gravesites were marked with wooden and iron crosses--the iron crosses being more expensive. No wooden crosses remain standing and so a great many graves of poorer residents are unmarked)

Adam LaSalle's Son

Callahan

Zulma P. Bourgeois  
1886-1915

Adrien Brasseaux  
CO C 7 LA CAV  
CSA

Joseph F. Bouget  
PVT US Army  
WWII  
Aug 12 1919 Sep 3 1988

(Micle) Comeaux

Newton Daily

Marie Daily

Armandez D. Demarcay  
Born April 1880  
Died March 6 1932

Hubert Daily

Clifton Hebert  
Oct 25 1904 Jan 26 1974

(Lidalisal) July 12, 1918 Died\_\_\_\_\_

Euclins Primeaux  
CSA

Hortense Primeaux  
B. 1835 D. 1922

Hypolite Primeaux  
B. 1881 D. 1932

Mabel Primeaux  
Died May 12, 1938

Pierre Aurelies Primeaux  
CO B 7 LA CAV  
CSA

Mrs. Minus Richard  
1920-1954

Mary Romero Born Apr 12, 1892  
Wife of Arthur Primeaux  
Died Oct. 4, 1939

Edonowla Simon  
Died 5 24 25

Emilie Thibodaux  
Feb 20, 1899  
Age 60

Giles Simon  
1909-1978

Estern Joseph Touchet  
1909-1978

Ceasar J. Touchet  
1914-1979

Eugenie Touns  
1867-1909



Paul Douran Toups  
July 16 1898 Dec 16 1877

Mother Cleiva  
June 4, 1829-CA 1878

Father Claville  
Feb 24, 1828  
Sept 1900

Son Eurttemah  
Apr 28, 1848  
Oct 27, 1916

Henry Protestant Cemetery  
Located off of Hwy 330 between Henry and Boston:  
Burial Place for Early Settlers of Prairie Greig  
(most monuments are of marble and granite)

Dooenat Brice

Infant Brice

Dora Mae Brice

Woodmen of the  
World

Emit Brusard  
January 8, 1841  
November 21, 1910  
CSA

Memorial  
Thomas E. Collins  
Born  
Jan. 24, 1875  
Died  
Oct. 18, 1910

\_\_\_\_\_mo

Roberta Collins  
1847-1917

Austin Delino  
Born 1852 Died 1917

Amanda Delino  
Born 1853  
Died 1909

George Delino  
Born 1851  
Died 1909

Granville Delino  
Born 1889  
Died 1916

Avery Delino  
Born 1889  
Died 1916

Ovelia Delino  
LA PVT HO CO 103 INF  
WWI  
Oct 13, 1886 May 3, 1966

Dronet  
Mary Elizabeth Delino  
Sep 13, 1883 Au1, 1929

Ursuline Dronet  
Nov 21, 1843  
Sept 8, 1912

Aristibe Lee  
Feb 27, 1862  
Oct 10, 1922

In Memory of  
Ardelle Elizabeth  
Wife of  
S. B. Henry  
Born

Henry  
Grandpa William 1818-1870  
Ludwia Wilhelm Kattenit  
Born Denmark  
Grandma ElizabethLee b 1818

Jan 26, 1868  
Died  
July 11, 1899

Henry, Steve  
1856-1892

Henry--Mother  
Amac  
March 17, 1862  
Nov 2, 1936

Austie Lee  
Born June 27, 1827  
Died April 24, 1898  
Age 72 Years, 10 Months, 2 Days  
Although He Sleeps  
His Memory Doth Love  
And Every Cheery Comfort  
To His Members Gives

J.S.E.L. Morgan  
Born July 2, 1885  
Died June 6, 1905

Mary Lucy Jones  
Born Jan 25, 1837 Died Oct 26, 1889  
Their Many Virtues Form the  
Noblest Monument  
to their Memory

Henry J. Moss  
CO 1 7LA CAV  
CSA

Amelia Toups  
Wife of Austin Lee  
We loved her

Son William Harrison  
May 5, 1863-Aug 11, 1927

Henry, Bettie  
1859-1942

Henry--Father  
Roberts  
May 1, 1852  
March 31, 1913

Joseph William Lee  
Oct 10, 1853  
Feb 25, 1912

Joseph Miguez  
Infant Miguez  
Alice Miguez  
Ruth Miguez

Thos J. Morgan  
Born Jan 1 1830  
Died June 6, 1905

Died Feb 23, 1923  
Age 88 Years  
His Wife  
Elegine Primeaux

Ernest Stauffer  
Born 1879  
Died at the age of 16

Joseph (Viermt)

Henry Chester Williman  
Dec 1 1908-Apr20,1930

# The Testamentary Executors of the late Domingue Prevost from the Attakapas, on the current account of Jean Soulie of New Orleans

## Debts:

1814:

December, 1. Paid to Mr. Thierry for a one-year-subscription to the <i>Courier de la Louisiane</i> -----	11
--	----

1815:

May, 23. Paid to Prosper_____ for a marble headstone for the decedent's tomb-----	38
---	----

June, 1. Paid on the account to Mr. Dejean-----	300
---	-----

October, 2. Paid on the account to Mr. D_____ de la Croix-----	1060
--	------

November, 8. Paid on the same account-----	500
--	-----

November, 24. Paid on the account to Mr. Roquette-----	232.60
--	--------

December, 16. Paid for the delivery of a package from Mr. Porter-----	76
---	----

1816:

January, 6. Paid on the account to D_____ de la Croix-----	1000
--	------

June, 22. Paid on the same account-----	1261
---	------

1817:

May, 17. Paid to Mr. Sauve according to the receipt-----	574
--	-----

May, 17. Paid on the account to Mr. Roquette-----	300
---	-----

	5277.36
--	---------

Balance remaining in the account of the testamentary executors-----	4528.53 3/4
---	-------------

## Credits:

1814:

October. For the amount I (J. Soulie) owe to the deceased-----	172.89 3/4
--	------------

1815:

May, 19. Received from Mr. Fuselier-----	403
October, 2. Received from the same-----	1060
October, 16. Received-----	905
November, 22. Received through Mr. Latiolais from Mr. Porter-----	120
December, 6. Received from Mr. Fuselier-----	200
December, 14. Received from Mr. Fuselier for a payment due by Barles & Cox----	190
December, 22. Received from the same by money order of Mr. Porter payable with Mr. P. Lanusse-----	500

1816:

January, 9. Received from the same by money order drawn on Rochelle & Shiff---	525
March, 5. Received from the same-----	1000
June, 24. Recieved-----idem-----	1060

1817:

January, 30. Received from Mr. Porter-----	400
March, 22. Received from the same-----	440
March, 28. Received from the same for a promissory note of Mr. A. Jackson-----	200
May, 8. Received from Mr. Fuselier from the hand of Mr. De la Croix-----	800
May, 20. Received from the same-----	25
July, 9. Received from the same in the form of a money order of Judge Johnson on the State Treasurer-----	375

1818:

April, 28. Received from the same from the hand of Mr. de la Croix-----	430
July, 8. Received for Mr. Porter-----	1000
<hr/>	
\$9805.89 3/4	

Less any errors or omissions, New Orleans, April 19, 1819.

Last Will and Testament of Pierre Nezat  
September 30, 1810  
Translated by *Tamara D. McGinnis*

In the name of the Holy Trinity--the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

I, the undersigned, judge of the parish of the Attakapas, at the request of Mr. Joseph Pierre Nezat, inhabitant of this parish, went to his home in order to record his last will and testament. Upon doing so, I found Mr. Nezat to be physically ailing, but, judging from the manner in which he responded to me, of a sound mind. His last will and testament was dictated as such:

Firstly, I declare having received an inheritance from my father worth approximately three thousand six hundred (\$3,600) dollars. This sum I leave and bequeath to my brothers and sisters, requesting that, after having paid all debts that I have incurred, they divide it equally among themselves.

Secondly, I leave and bequeath to my wife, Marie Louise Barre, the tract of land on which we presently reside, having a width of 10 arpents and a depth of 40 arpents. In addition, I leave and bequeath to my wife an adjoining cypress grove, one arpent wide and the depth of which reaches the property of Mr. Salasty Roy. Also, I leave to my wife a slave-woman named Rosette and her two children, Alexis and Sachis (?), along with a slave-child named Eustache. In addition, I leave her all horned cattle, plowing oxen and milking cows on the premises; two horses named Peint Noir and Morite; all kitchen and household equipment; furniture and beds, etc. In addition, I leave her all of the agricultural equipment on the premises: hatchets, harrow plows, etc. Finally, I leave her an unfinished building, the posts with which to finish it, as well as the right to remove it, should she so desire.

Thirdly, I request that a horse bearing my brand be delivered to Mr. Leon Latiolais, and that one of my mares be given to my godson, Joseph Nezat.

Fourthly, I leave and bequeath my rifle to Joseph Nezat; my carbine to my wife.

Fifthly, in consideration of the devoted service and the excellent behavior that Rosa, my mulatto, has practiced, I (with the consent of my wife) grant her freedom. In addition, I am leaving her a horse bearing my brand, and a cart.

Sixthly, I name as my testament executors Joseph Latiolais and Auguste Nezat, my brother and stepbrother.

Seventhly, I ask that I be given the burial of a good and faithful Christian.

Done, concluded and reviewed in Attakapas parish in the presence of Misters Martin Sudrique, Francois Gotier and Jean Baptiste Schepperd, witnesses (living in this parish) and in my presence, Parish Judge, Seth Lewis, on this thirtieth day of the month of September in the year Eighteen hundred and ten.

Signed J. P. Nezat

Seth Lewis, Parish Judge

Witnesses:

Francois Gotier  
J. B. Schepperd  
Martin Sudrique

# THE BODINS AND PRIMEAUXS OF PRAIRIE GREIG

Compiled by  
*Gaynell Bodin Barras*

"The first Louisiana-born Bodin in this line was Gregoire, born in 1794, died 1864. He married twice. He had a son, Gregoire, by his second wife.

The first Gregoire had a son named Therence, who in turn had a son by the name of Gregoire, born 25 September 1868 and baptized in Abbeville. Gregoire was married 28 November 1892 (Abbeville) to Eva Primeaux.

The Bodin line is not Acadian, but it does have Acadian ancestry. Gregoire (b. 1794) was the son of Jean Louis Bodin, a native of Noirmoutier on the Island of Noirmoutier in the Department of Vendee, France. Jean Louis was a seaman on the *Bon Papa*, which brought the first group of displaced Acadians from France to Louisiana in 1785. In 1787 he married Francoise Doiron, who had arrived in Louisiana on another ship, also in 1785. Francoise was born in France, but was the daughter of exiled Acadians who had been sent to England, and after the peace sent to France.

Her father was Gregoire Doiron.

I have visited France several times, and although I have never met a Bodin there I have found the name in Paris, Angers, St. Malo, St. Nazaire, Noirmoutier, Bordeaux, Tarbes, Lourdes, Carcassonne, Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Lyon, Dijon, and many smaller places. I visited the Scandinavian countries in 1983 and found the name Bodin in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. I learned that they were descendants of French Huguenots. In Stockholm I counted 95 in the phone book."

(Correspondence to Ron Bodin from Msgr. George A. Bodin, 19 August 1986)

The Bodin and Primeaux Families of Prairie Greig: A Pedigree Chart

Abbreviations used:

b-date of birth

pb-place of birth

d-date of death

pd-place of death

m-date of marriage

pm-place of marriage

Gregoire Bodin (one of the sons of the first Bodin family in the area. The brother of Bruce, Zan, and Dolie Bodin) b 26 September 1886 pb Abbeville, La. m 28 November 1892 to Eva Primeaux pm Abbeville, La. d 14 January 1947—age 78 pd Erath, La.

Father of Eve b 1893, Marie Olite b 1894, Edith b 1897, Joseph b 1898, Loria b 1900, Ozare b 1905, Edna b 1907, Francois b 1909, Etta b 1911, George b 1915, and a daughter, Lydia, who died at the age of 11 of Typhoid Fever and the

**son of**

Therence Bodin b 11 Oct 1819 pb St. Martinville m 11 Sept 1843 pm New Iberia d 20 Apr 1880—age 61pd Abbeville  
married to Anastasia Luquette

**grandson of**

Gregoire Bodin b 12 Dec 1794 pb St. Gabriel, La. m 11 Nov 1816 pm St. Martinville d 25 June 1865 pd Charenton, La.

married to Pilagie Leblanc b 15 Apr 1797 pb Lafayette, La. d June 1840 pd Franklin, La. and Mathies Luquette b 21 Sept 1787 pb St. James, La. m 4 Jan. 1813 pm St. Martinville  
married to Anastasia Mouton b 24 Aug 1794 pb St Martinville d Dec 1846 pd Lafayette, La.

**great-grandson of**

Jean Louis Bodin 28 Dec 1761 pb France m 28 Jan 1787 pm St. Gabriel La  
married to Marie Francoise Doiron b 1768 bp France  
and

Rene Leblanc IV b 1750 m 1772 d 1809 pd St. Martinville  
married to Marguerite Trahan b 1753  
and

Jean Baptiste Luquette b 1764 m 27 Dec 1786 pm St. James, La. d 1830  
married to Marie Ann Frederick b 1765 d 1852  
and

Marin Mouton b 2 Nov 1753 pb St. James, La. m 20 Jan 1777 pm St. James, La. d 1836 pd Lafayette, La.  
married to Marie Josephe Lambert b1753 pb Mobile d 1811 pd Abbeville La

**grest-great grandson of**

Pierre Bodin b 1735 pb France m 1758 pm France  
married to Jeanne Massonit b 1735 pb France  
and

Alexis Gregoire Doiron (seaman) b 1744 pb Pisiguit Acadia m 19 May 1767 pm St. Enogot France  
married to Elina (Helene) Aucoin b 1745 pb Cobiqual Acadia  
and

Rene Leblanc b 1701 pb Grand Pre Acadia m 1722 Grand Pre d 1759 Quebec  
married to Anne Theriot b 1705 pb Grand Pre d 1759 pd Quebec  
and

Jean Trahan b 1719 d 1799 pd St. Martinville, La  
 married in 1744 to Marguerite Broussard b 1726  
 and

Jorge Luquette m 1764  
 married to Catalina Gisclair  
 and

Mathies Frederick b 1727 pb Germany m 29 Jan 1754 pm Destrehan, La.  
 married to Maria Ann Berenhart b 1730 d 1804 pd St. James, La.  
 and

Salvador Mouton b 1735 d 1773 pd New Orleans  
 married to Anne Bastarache on 24 Jan 1752 pm Port Royal Acadia b 1733 d 1766 pd St.  
 James, La.  
 and

Jean Bapiste Landry b 1730 m 1750 d 1777  
 married to Catherine Lacroix  
 The parents of Pierre Bodin were Pierre Bodin of France who  
 married Jeanne Guillaud of France in 1730

### The Primeauxs

(Note: The Primeaux Family Cemetery is located between Erath and Henry)  
 Eva Primeaux b 25 Jan 1875 pb Abbeville, La. d 23 Jan 1962--age 86 pd Erath  
 daughter of

Francois Primeaux b 1853 pb Abbeville m 22 Jan 1873 pm Abbeville d 21 Sept 1908--age 55  
 pd Abbeville  
 married to Josephine Harrington b 20 Feb 1856 pb Abbeville d 8 August 1928--age 72  
 sister of Claude, Remick, Othenese, Belle, Orisca, Nelles and Edolie Primeaux  
 Abbeville,

### grand-daughter of

Euclide Primeaux b 10 Aug 1829 pb Lafayette, La.  
 married to Remise Vincent  
 and of

Joseph Harrington b 4 May 1824 pb St. Martinville m 1847 d 17 July 1885 pd Abbeville  
 married to Marie Aurilise Primeaux b 30 Nov 1831 pb Lafayette d 16 May 1912--age 81 pd  
 Abbeville

### great-granddaughter of

Francois Primeaux b 14 Feb 1787 pb St. Martinville m 22 Feb 1808 pm St. Martinville d 1833  
 pd Lafayette  
 married to Justine Baudoin b 1788  
 and of Joseph Vincent b 10 Apr 1790 pb St. Martinville m 29 Nov 1814 pm St. Martinville  
 married to Lisa Landry b 3 Feb 1799 pb St. Martinville  
 and of





# LAFAYETTE PARISH SUCCESSIONS 1823-1900

*by Rebecca A. Batiste*

*(continued from vol. XXV, no. 1)*

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
750	Mouton, Adeline	July 12, 1854
2097	Mouton, Adolphe	Oct. 30, 1896
1666	Mouton, Alcee	Nov. 4, 1882
1859	Mouton, Alcide	Feb. 21, 1887
1997	Mouton, Alcide V. Antoine	Jan. 20, 1894
1734	Mouton, Alex	Feb. 28, 1885
1089	Mouton, Alfred	Aug. 29, 1866
1914	Mouton, Alzina	Jan. 22, 1891
558	Mouton, Anastasie	Dec. 2, 1846
1528	Mouton, Antoine	July 26, 1877
780	Mouton, Arther Stute	Nov. 8, 1855
2006	Mouton, Augustin	Feb. 27, 1894
398	Mouton, Aurelien	June 29, 1833
1662	Mouton, Benjamin	Sept. 20, 1882
1886	Mouton, Bordat A.	April 28, 1890
1919	Mouton, Cecile	Feb. 5, 1891
1674	Mouton, Cecilia	May 4, 1883
2162	Mouton, Cecilia	June 2, 1899
2174	Mouton, Celestine	Feb. 12, 1900
484	Mouton, Cesaire	July 24, 1843
603	Mouton, Charles	no date given
2186	Mouton, Charles A.	Oct. 8, 1900
1495	Mouton, Charles Alexander	Oct. 27, 1876
2160	Mouton, Charlotte Robert	May 8, 1899
1690	Mouton, Cidalise	Nov. 3, 1883
526	Mouton, Cyprien Michael	March 30, 1846
1712	Mouton, David Edward	April 12, 1884
60	Mouton, Don Louis	April 13, 1825
1747	Mouton, Edgar	Jan. 18, 1888
1622	Mouton, Edward	April 27, 1881
1251	Mouton, Elodie	March 21, 1870
755	Mouton, Elol	Sept. 18, 1854

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
1632	Mouton, Emelie	Sept. 6, 1881
1677	Mouton, Emma	March 28, 1883
1560	Mouton, Eraste	May 27, 1879
1878	Mouton, Ervillien	Dec. 28, 1889
1921	Mouton, Euphemie	Feb. 9, 1891
2101	Mouton, Fermand	Jan. 9, 1897
119	Mouton, Francois Estelle	Dec. 10, 1827
292	Mouton, Jean	Dec. 20, 1834
311	Mouton, Joseph	Dec. 9, 1835
984	Mouton, Joseph	Aug. 10, 1865
1709	Mouton, Joseph Aubert	Feb. 27, 1887
1660	Mouton, Joseph Irwin Horace	Sept. 25, 1882
1709	Mouton, Jude	Feb. 16, 1884
621	Mouton, Jules	May 17, 1849
432	Mouton, Lise	no date given
1140	Mouton, Louis V. Pousseau	Dec. 11, 1867
468	Mouton, Marcelite	Oct. 24, 1842
818	Mouton, Maren	July 13, 1857
1877	Mouton, Marguerite	Dec. 28, 1889
226	Mouton, Marie	July 18, 1832
830	Mouton, Marie	Nov. 2, 1857
862	Mouton, Marie	Dec. 2, 1858
1948	Mouton, Marie	April 23, 1892
1985	Mouton, Marie	Aug. 3, 1893
980	Mouton, Marie A.	Sept. 27, 1864
1317	Mouton, Marie	March 9, 1872
120	Mouton, Marie M.	Dec. 7, 1827
332	Mouton, Marie	April 7, 1837
322	Mouton, Marie	Sept., 1836
2099	Mouton, Marthe	Dec. 21, 1896
1917	Mouton, Narcise	Jan. 27, 1891
1425	Mouton, Onezime	Oct. 16, 1873
1131	Mouton, Onezime R.	Dec. 6, 1867
1616	Mouton, Placide	Feb. 3, 1881
1744	Mouton, Regina	Sept. 29, 1885
1396	Mouton, Rosa Irma	Sept. 26, 1872
2141	Mouton, Rose Irma	Oct. 13, 1898
958	Mouton, Sosthene	March 21, 1863
1674	Mouton, Wilfred	Sept. 1, 1883
539	Mudd, Jean B.	Oct. 23, 1841
454	Muggah, Ed.	April 5, 1842
321	Muggah, James	June 16, 1836
166	Muggah, John	Oct. 26, 1829
1344	Muggah, John	Aug. 1, 1872
732	Muller, Antoine	Dec. 2, 1853
1995	Muratet, Jean Louis	Jan. 5, 1894

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
1084	Murphy, James Joseph	July 12, 1866
1116	Myers, Solomon	July 22, 1867
136	Myre, Placide	July 1, 1828

## N

425	Navarre, Victor	July 15, 1840
1531	Necaud, evelina Overton	Aug. 20, 1877
122	Neiz, Benedict	Jan. 12, 1828
1748	Neveu, Arthur	Oct. 19, 1885
1275	Neveu, Christophe	Nov. 28, 1870
377	Neveu, J. J.	May 15, 1837
1273	Neveu, Jean Jacques	Oct. 31, 1870
1897	Neveu, Locke	Oct. 24, 1890
1738	Neveu, Louis	April 25, 1885
418	Nezat, Marie Jose	Jan. 4, 1830
428	Nicaud, Michel	Feb., 1841
260	Nicolson, Thomas	Oct. 1833
283	Noagers, Joseph	Aug. 15, 1834
1391	Nofpar, John	Aug. 15, 1872
1388	Nofper, John	Aug. 15, 1872
52	Nolden, Pierre Thomas	Sept. 11, 1824
930	Noon, Martin	Aug. 31, 1861
250	Noughniez, Joseph	Aug. 5, 1833

## O

1330	O'Brien, Christopher & Mary	Aug. 1, 1872
208	Odemns, Dempsey	Aug. 8, 1831
1349	Olivier, Charles	Aug. 1, 1872
432	Orme, Melinda	April 6, 1841
22	Oshea, Michel	July 22, 1822
2007	Oueilhie, Emile	March 12, 1894
1910	Ouelhie, Louis	Dec. 9, 1890
128	Owen, John	March 1, 1828

## P

429	Paewet, Sarah	Nov. 27, 1830
1679	Parent, Francois P.	March 6, 1883
838	Parr, Marguerite	no date given
973	Par, Suzette	Feb. 16, 1864

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
464	Parrot, Joseph	Oct. 5, 1842
744	Pasquier, Maurice	June 1, 1854
1965	Patin, Adam	Nov. 3, 1892
534	Patin, Antoine	Jan. 17, 1843
1374	Patin, Antoine	Aug. 15, 1872
1133	Patin, Azema	Nov. 28, 1867
1605	Patin, Emilie	Oct. 23, 1880
1147	Patin, Ermina	Dec. 21, 1867
936	Patin, Hortence	Nov. 13, 1861
1787	Patin, Pamela	Dec. 17, 1886
707	Patin, Ursin	March 15, 1853
1614	Patte, Oswald	Sept. 7, 1881
1879	Patterson, Sarah	Jan. 14, 1889
1606	Paul, Prospere	Oct. 12, 1880
99	Paussion, Paul	Sept. 7, 1826
486	Pavie, Eulalie	Jan. 16, 1843
1157	Pavy, Pierre	Jan. 9, 1868
1120	Paxton, Benjamin P.	Nov. 12, 1867
622	Paxton, Samuel M.	May 11, 1849
25	Peek, Charles	Oct. 15, 1823
46	Peek, Margaret L. McGaugh	July 31, 1824
1946	Pellerin, Aurore	April 4, 1892
974	Pellerin, Darmartin, Jr.	March 2, 1864
1941	Pellerin, Edmond	Dec. 21, 1889
1352	Pellerin, Francois Henry	Aug. 1, 1872
217	Pellerin, Jean B.	Feb. 15, 1832
423	Pellerin, Louis	May 25, 1840
1411	Pellerin, Odille	March 18, 1873
68	Pelletier, Pierre Eleanore	Aug. 15, 1825
1761	Perez, Augustin,	March 5, 1888
1554	Perot, Alfred	Oct. 11, 1870
329	Phelps, Isabelle Porter	March 24, 1837
1590	Philomene, Eve	March 1, 1880
2017	Piatte, Oscar Anatole	Aug. 22, 1894
1600	Picard, Auguste Wilfred	Aug. 18, 1880
1979	Picard, Marie E.	April 3, 1893
213	Pierre, Jean Baptiste	Oct. 20, 1831
71	Pierrot, Pierre	Jan. 22, 1825
1263	Pieu, Bernard Gregory	June 17, 1870
733	Pinet, Jean	Nov. 10, 1853
1504	Piquette, Francois E.	June 13, 1877
420	Pitre, Francois	Aug. 28, 1840
599	Plaisance, Napoleon	June 1, 1848
2016	Plonsky, Frimmet	Aug. 14, 1894
1758	Plonsky, Samuel	Jan. 5, 1886
1087	Poimboeuf, Eugene	Aug. 20, 1866

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
1737	Poimboeuf, Jules	April 16, 1885
938	Poirie, (No Name)	Nov. 20, 1861
1587	Poirier, Josephine & Joseph, Sr.	Jan. 7, 1880
266	Portee, Lana Lot Taylor	Feb. 24, 1834
331	Porter, Shodrach	April 13, 1837
767	Pothier, Adelaide	April 27, 1855
1861	Pothier, Ernest	March 4, 1889
674	Pothier, Louis	June 18, 1851
323	Potier, Pierre & Marie	Dec. 23, 1836
327	Potier, Sylvain	Jan. 18, 1837
49	Poumier, Guillaume	Oct. 25, 1824
1846	Pourceaux, Valsin	Nov. 23, 1888
1414	Powel, Isaac,	May 13, 1873
400	Prejean, Andre	Dec. 15, 1820
798	Prejean, Celeste	June 23, 1856
1052	Prejean, Charles	Jan. 20, 1866
2086	Prejean, Clemence	June 4, 1896
200	Prejean, Ellen	March 26, 1831
1569	Prejean, Elvine	Feb. 6, 1879
679	Prejean, Emilien	Oct. 7, 1851
1165	Prejean, Euranie	Jan. 30, 1868
1452	Prejean, Euranie	Dec. 2, 1874
1572	Prejean, Evelina	June 18, 1879
153	Prejean, Jean	Jan. 31, 1829
1867	Prejean, Jean	July 13, 1889
814	Prejean, Joseph	April 15, 1857
1473	Prejean, Lessin Jean	Nov. 19, 1875
2096	Prejean, Louis Anatole	Oct. 5, 1896
993	Prejean, M. M.,	Sept. 2, 1865
383	Prejean, Magdalene	May 26, 1826
161	Prejean, Marie Louise	June 9, 1829
2090	Prejean, Marie	Aug. 22, 1896
249	Prejean, Marie Louisianaise	July 10, 1833
316	Prejean, Maximilien	March 8, 1836
2060	Prejean, Paul	Nov. 21, 1895
1991	Prejean, Pierre Arcade	Dec. 5, 1893
501	Prejean, Rosalie Doucet	Aug. 19, 1844
1024	Prejean, Valsin	Nov. 21, 1865
5	Preman, Donat	May 14, 1823
1966	Preston, Julia	Nov. 30, 1892
1362	Prevost, Francois	Aug. 1, 1872
1480	Primeaux, Adeline	no date given
589	Primot, Donat	May 2, 1848
253	Primot, Francois	June 17, 1833
2051	Priollaud, Edward Junius	Sept. 5, 1895

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
2134	Priollaud, Marie Pauline	Aug. 8, 1898
1353	Prue, Emanuel Mrs.	Aug. 1, 1872
Q		
2115	Quinlan, Michel	Oct. 11, 1897
R		
1298	Racca, Clairville	Aug. 16, 1870
1402	Racca, Louis Armand	Dec. 2, 1872
1988	Raggio, Joseph Stephane	Nov. 13, 1893
1988	Raggio, Stephane Joseph	Nov. 13, 1893
1083	Raines, George	July 12, 1866
857	Rand, Isaac Thomas	Dec. 2, 1857
694	Randolph, (no name)	March 1, 1852
623	Ranthon, Fanny	July 19, 1849
305	Raulin, Benjamin	Aug. 24, 1835
1837	Reaux, Marie	July 27, 1888
1635	Reddie, Martin	Aug. 22, 1881
124	Reeves, John	Dec. 6, 1827
328	Reeves, Joseph	March 21, 1837
642	Reeves, Thomas J.	Feb. 19, 1850
1422	Rene, Celeste	July 26, 1823
1809	Revillon, Jules J.	June 4, 1887
2117	Revillon, Lucile	Nov. 15, 1897
109	Rhame, Michel Coile	April 23, 1827
387	Rice, Samuel B.	May 19, 1840
1648	Richard, Alice	Nov. 26, 1881
1998	Richard, Alzina	Jan. 25, 1894
872	Richard, Anaclet	March 21, 1859
1623	Richard, Celestine	May 20, 1881
2050	Richard, Charles	Sept. 2, 1895
1223	Richard, Gedeon	May 31, 1869
709	Richard, Jean	May 28, 1852
1223	Richard, Jedean	May 21, 1869
1017	Richard, Joachim	no date given
911	Richard, Leufroy Armand	Nov. 25, 1860
827	Richard, Louis	no date given
1371	Richard, Louis	Aug. 1, 1872
92	Richard, Marie	July 13, 1826
2004	Richard, Marie Azelie	Feb. 27, 1894
632	Richard, Marie Louise	Nov. 26, 1846
250	Richard, Marie Rose	Aug. 5, 1833

SUIT NO.	NAME	DATE FILED
92	Richard, Marie	July 13, 1826
2004	Richard, Marie Azelie	Feb. 27, 1894
632	Richard, Marie Louise	Nov. 26, 1846
250	Richard, Marie Rose	Aug. 5, 1833
239	Richard, Melanie Hulin	Jan. 11, 1833
653	Richard, Melasie	Aug. 25, 1850
1221	Richard, Onesema	April 21, 1869
312	Richard, Onezime	Oct. 2, 1836
677	Richard, Onezime	July 25, 1851
1427	Richard, Paul	Sept. 19, 1873
2182	Richard, Philip	May 25, 1900
303	Richard, Pierre	July 30, 1835
1371	Richard, Pierre	Aug. 1, 1873
509	Richard, Pierre	Jan. 27, 1945
399	Richard, Pierre Fergus	Oct. 1, 1830
925	Richard, Sonis	April 13, 1861
1325	Richard, Sosthene	July 11, 1872
1538	Richard, Sosthene	June 16, 1878
1882	Richard, Thelesmare	Jan. 31, 1890
680	Rigues, Andre	Oct. 14, 1851
995	Rigues, J. A.	Sept. 4, 1865
1683	Rigues, M. F.	July 12, 1883
1022	Ringold, Benjamin	Nov. 9, 1865
1071	Riu, Ramon	March 7, 1866
212	Robichaud, Magdolen	Jan. 28, 1831
380	Robichot, Genevieve	no date given
1384	Robisseau, Freme	Aug. 15, 1872
1121	Roch, Jean B.	Nov. 12, 1867
1665	Roche, Emelie Arceneaux	Oct. 18, 1882
1318	Roger, Clara Lavergne	March 13, 1872
1474	Roger, Edmond	Nov. 26, 1875
1670	Roger, Hugh	Jan. 24, 1883
1110	Roger, Mary	Feb. 25, 1867
794	Roi, Pierre	March 17, 1856
1647	Romaire, Gustave	Nov. 18, 1881
1350	Roman, Jacques	Aug. 1, 1872
2035	Romero, Adele	Jan. 24, 1895
882	Romero, Julie	July 8, 1859
1196	Romero, Lucien	Jan. 18, 1868
468	Rosseau, Zelia	Nov. 15, 1842
941	Rousseau, Gadrat	Jan. 14, 1862
591	Rousseau, Louis	March 10, 1848
1215	Roy, Amos	March 8, 1868

to be continued



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# EVENTS REPORTED IN THE LAFAYETTE DAILY ADVERTISER, 1930

By Rebecca A. Batiste

## NEW JEFFERSON THEATRE

From a June 14, 1930 *Daily Advertiser* article, "New Jefferson Theatre Will Be Erected In This City By The Southern Amusement Co."

Submitted by *Rebecca Batiste*

Lafayette will soon have a new and ultra-modern theatre, marking another important and outstanding development in the city's steady growth and progress. It will be erected by the Southern Amusement Company, owners and operators of the Jefferson Theatre here, and will be the finest theatre in the state outside the larger cities.

The new playhouse will occupy the present vacant site next to the Jefferson Theatre, on Jefferson Street. The present theatre is to be entirely remodeled and put to a new use which will be announced later by the owners.

### Will Seat 1,200

There will be a seating capacity of approximately 1,200 in the new Jefferson. The latest type of cushioned chairs will be used. In addition to the main floor there will be a mezzanine and balcony. A ladies' rest room, men's smoking room, and other features will be provided.

The Southern Amusement Company has announced that the most modern Western Electric talking system will be installed and the best talking pictures that can be obtained are to be shown. In designing the building, provision is being made for future development of the talkies, such as the wide screen and third dimension which are now only in their initial stages. The new theatre will be arranged so that these improvements can be installed as soon as they are completed.

Extensive stage and other facilities will also be included in the new theatre, for handling the largest road attractions.

Herman J. Duncan, of Alexandria, is the architect, and is now completing the plans. The company expects to be ready to award the contract for construction within the next 60 days and plans to rush the work as rapidly as possible.

The Southern Amusement Company, with offices at Lake Charles, operates several theatres in Louisiana. W. G. Strange is president, Bert Tillor vice-president, and A. G. Wachsen secretary-treasurer. W. H. Clark is residing manager of the Jefferson.

## \$80,000 Laundry Plant is Ready for Opening

Keeping step with the growth and development of Latayette along modern and progressive lines is the large plant which has been completed for the new Latayette Steam Laundry, Inc. The formal opening of the laundry will take place during the coming week.

This up-to-date plant, representing an investment of approximately \$80,000 is designed to more than take care of the present business. It is intended to handle a much larger patronage which the owners, through their faith in the future of this city and Southwest Louisiana, believe will develop in due time.

### Saw Best Opportunity

D. D. Blue and his associates in the local laundry project visited many points in Arkansas and Louisiana before selecting a location. They were impressed by the progressive spirit and the favorable location of Latayette, together with the advantages offered by this city. They decided that here was the best opening for establishment of a modern laundry, and negotiations were opened for the purchase of the local plant which had been operated for some time by the Hebert Brothers.

After the purchase, negotiated through J. A. Alpha, local realtor, was arranged, the new owners began plans at once for the new building recently completed and located on the same site as the formal plant, at Lee Avenue and Convent Street. J. B. Mouton, of this city, was awarded the contract for construction of the building which is a concrete, steel and brick structure, one story in height except for a mezzanine section which provides office space in addition to the business department on the first floor.

### 5,500 Square Feet

The plant has a floor space of approximately 5,500 square feet, in addition to an annex for the boiler room.

The new building was erected and the machinery installed with only very little interruption in operation, as the walls were constructed around the former plant.

With its large windows, which make up a large part of the Lee Avenue side of the building, skylights, concrete floor and light-colored interior walls and ceiling, the plant presents a scene of cleanliness and efficiency throughout.

Practically all new equipment was installed. Each power-driven machine has an individual electric motor, thus eliminating the necessity of overhead shafts and belts. There are nine pressing machines, a large flat ironer, a utility ironer and also a machine for ironing collars. In addition there are four washers and two electrically driven extractors or wringers.

### Automatic Pressers

Special automatic pressing machines are used for linen suits and women's apparel of a similar nature. Family or individual laundry articles which must be handled with special care, on account of

the buttons, are ironed by hand. Other pieces go through the large flat ironer. There is a special cabinet for drying rough work which the owner desires returned home for ironing.

The pressing and cleaning department is arranged in a separate section. A Glover dry cleaning system is provided, with a pressure filter flowing at the rate of 600 gallons of cleaning fluid an hour.

If there are those who suspect that articles sent to a laundry suffer from the cleaning process, the management wishes an opportunity to demonstrate that the Lafayette Steam Laundry eliminates such danger by using only Wyandotte modified soda, together with Ivory soap. This soda, it is explained, is of such a harmless nature it could be eaten by a human without peril.

### Identification System

Possibly the main thing that puzzles the majority of persons in regard to the operation of the laundry is how the articles for each patron are kept separate from those of others during the process of washing and ironing. Yet this is comparatively simple, after all, at least with the plan used by the local plant, the same system being in general favor with modern laundries throughout the country.

Attached to the large brass plates, which have a number of perforations, are large safety clasp pins each of which has a number corresponding to the number on the plate. As many of the pins as desired can be taken off and attached to the laundry bags into which the different articles are sorted. Shirts go into one bag, sheets, towels and similar articles into another, articles with buttons go into a third, rough finish work into a fourth, and so on.

Each of the bags into which articles of the same patron are placed therefore carry similar numbers. When the work is finished, the pins are returned to the plate with the corresponding number. As long as there is a perforation without a pin it is evident that there is still some of the articles to be added before the laundry is ready for delivery.

### Five Trucks Used

As fast as the work is completed, the laundry for each patron is assembled, wrapped and placed ready for delivery by the five motor trucks used in collecting and returning the work. Three of these trucks are operated in this city and two on trips outside Lafayette.

D. D. Blue, of DeRidder, is president of the new Lafayette Steam Laundry, Inc. His son, S. S. Blue, vice-president, and son-in-law, J. L. O'Donnell, secretary-treasurer, are in charge of the plant.

The public is extended a cordial invitation to inspect the new laundry during the coming week, from Monday noon to Saturday at noon, between the hours of 7:30 and 5:30 daily. Visitors will be conducted about the plant and the different details of the work explained to them.

Sunday the laundry management will entertain the employees of the plant numbering about 40, with a picnic at Charenton.

The Lafayette Daily Advertiser

September 4, 1930

### HEYMANN STORE OPENS FRIDAY AT OPELOUSAS

Friday will mark the advent of a new and most important industry in Opelousas, being the occasion of the formal opening of the new Heymann Department Store on Main Street, and it is

expected that the event will be featured by the attendance of thousands of citizens of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish, attracted by the established reputation of Heymann merchandising service in the rival cities of Lafayette and Crowley. That it is an important new industry in this city and is bound to have a most encouraging effect upon the unemployment situation which is indicated in the fact that 250 employees will assist in the formal opening and the proprietor announces that a staff of fifty or more employees will be required to regularly and permanently handle the business.

St. Landry citizens will welcome the coming of Mr. Heymann to the parish metropolis, and localizing the Heymann service and Heymann policies that have proved so popular in Lafayette and in Crowley, especially as a competitor of the chain store and as influence in bringing down the cost of living through his policy of underselling all competition as a regular thing, rather than as an occasional sales day feature. Opelousas has known Mr. Heymann by reputation for many years, has patronized his Lafayette and Crowley stores and become acquainted with the proprietor and his merchandising policies. So he really is no stranger in our midst.

Evidencing his faith in the future of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish, Mr Heymann comes to Opelousas as a permanent member of our business world, having purchased the lot upon which his magnificent new store has been erected by him, and the initial investment of more than \$100,000 in his faith in Opelousas. He has built a modern store building, constructed of concrete, brick and steel, along lines similar to his big establishment in Lafayette, and handsomely equipped with modern features and every detail for the comfort and convenience of his patrons. It is an untram-molded establishment, metropolitan in appearance and equipment, and stocked with merchandise brought especially for the occasion on his recent buying trip to the eastern markets. The stock ranges from pins to pianos, including just about everything in the way of human need usually found in metropolitan department stores.

The building is constructed of faced-brick, reinforced by steel and concrete, and has a frontage on Main Street of 80 feet, extending 175 feet through the block from Main to Union streets. It is in appearance from outside a two-story building. Inside it has the main floor and front and rear mezzanines, conserving floor space and permitting a display of stocks in a most convenient arrangement on both floors. In addition to the interior displays, the front is offset with "island" window displays, an arcade arrangement so satisfactorily featured in his Lafayette stores, permitting window shopping 24 hours a day and adding to the day light-- specially designed to meet his requirements for light, air and ventilation. The main entrance is flanked on all sides by these island windows, and three separate entrances are provided from the front main lobby, supplemented by a rear entrance and exit for the convenience of grocery patrons. The building also was constructed with great regard for its fireproof qualities, the proprietor venturing the statement that the building is 100 percent safe against fire, inside and out.

One pleasing feature of the new industry is the policy to employ only native sons and daughters, completing the thoughts of an individually home-owned institution catering solely to home people and served by home people. Another popular Heymann policy is that of keeping the home dollars at home, meaning reinvestments of profits here where they are earned, and expending in salaries and overhead expenses among the employees, taxes, and other outlays incident to the role of a substantial constructive citizenship, the home dollars spent in the home store.

There is a vast difference between the Heymann stores and the chain variety in more than one way. His stores are owned solely by himself and are located in and serving Southwest Louisiana communities exclusively, each unit being a home institution in every sense of the word. It is a Heymann policy to be identified with all local movements for community progress and development, extension of educational facilities, cultivation of community spirit--to be both a citizen and neighbor, delighted to share the full responsibilities and enjoy the full privileges of both.

In underselling competition, it is Mr. Heymann's delight to include the chain store among his competitors, and vindicate the efficiency of his amply financed and ably managed buying staffs maintained in New York and the principal marts of the east. Buying in carload lots to supply his large stores, backed by ample capital for every spot-cashed opportunity, taking over entire factory output and special trade offering by wholesalers and importers, combined with the policy of relying upon volume business and slight marginal profits, selling on a strictly cash basis, he makes competition impossible. "Everyday is bargain day at Heymann's," is one of his famous slogans, successfully demonstrated over a long period of years in business in Latayette and Crowley.

Included in the modern features installed in the new Opelousas store are the latest in display features, modern in construction and original in decorative equipment. Even the roof, fireproof in construction, is cork insulated as an aid to heating, cooling and ventilation facilities provided to keep an even temperature and pure fresh air every day of the year. Rest rooms, dressing rooms, fitting rooms, and other conveniences for both men and women, also are among the conveniences provided for shoppers, and a refrigerating system is provided for meats, dairy products and other articles of food on sale in the grocery department. A tailoring department where dresses are designed and made to order in connection with the millinery department and ladies' ready-to-wear department, are features that will be appreciated by the patrons of the new store.

The new store is but the beginning, if we are to judge by past performances. As trade expansion demands, new departments will be added and the building will be enlarged to meet the requirements of these new departments, just as has been done in the other cities where Mr. Heymann operates. Staffs of employees also will be steadily increased as business justifies, and the same policy of employing only home folks will be observed. Mr. Heymann gives personal attention to the operation of his stores and will divide his time between Latayette, Crowley and Opelousas, so we shall have the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with him, as well as his store staffs.

The establishment of a Heymann store in Opelousas is a distinct compliment of the city, since his uniformly successful career testifies to the fact that he never has selected a dead town or one without a future in which to place a store. And his heavy investment of a permanent nature in Opelousas real estate is a definite and conclusive bit of evidence of his faith in the future of Opelousas. Others looking for a location for new industries might bear this in mind.

*The Latayette Daily Advertiser*

June 2, 1930

## Dr. M. E. Saucier Dies Here; Was Ill Short Time

Prominent Local Physician And Surgeon Succumbs At Early Hour Today  
On State School Board  
Latayette Resident 17 Years--Active in Business and Fraternal Circles

Dr. Merrick Edmond Saucier, prominent local physician and surgeon, and member of the State Board of Education, died at his home here at 12:45 this morning, succumbing to a heart malady with which he was stricken last Thursday evening. During the early part of Sunday he was apparently improving but suffered a relapse later in the day from which he was unable to rally.

Dr. Saucier was 48 years of age on April 9th last. He was a native of Marksville, La., and a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Saucier, the mother being before her marriage, Miss Helen Brouillette. The father was a prominent merchant of Avoyelles parish for many years and also served as sheriff in that parish for 14 years.

### Tulane Graduate

After receiving his high school education at Marksville, Dr. Saucier studied at Louisiana State University and at Tulane University, New Orleans, where he graduated from the school of medicine in 1905. Returning to Marksville he practiced medicine there until 1915 and then came to Lafayette where he formed a partnership with Dr. L. O. Clark. Dr. C. E. Hamilton joined Drs. Clark and Saucier in the practice of medicine and surgery here.

### Headed Hospital

Upon taking up his practice here June 1, 1913, Dr. Saucier became interested in the Lafayette Sanitarium which had been established by Dr. Clark and others who formed a corporation for the purpose. The site of this building was purchased in 1906 and the hospital erected in 1911 and enlarged later. Dr. Saucier was elected president of the hospital corporation last year and was serving in that position at the time of his death.

In addition to medicine, Dr. Saucier was active in other fields. He helped to organize the Commercial National Bank here and was chairman of the board of directors. He was also director in the Great American Finance Company here, and was interested in other business and financial enterprises.

### Active in Rotary

As a member of the local Rotary Club, Dr. Saucier was active in the work of the organization and was known as the "Father of the Lafayette Boys Band." It was during attendance at a Rotary Convention in Baton Rouge that he became impressed by the work of a boys' band from Memphis, Tennessee, and upon returning home began the move which led to formation of the band here. He served as the third president of the Lafayette Rotary Club.

Dr. Saucier was a member of the different Masonic branches, and served in several offices of the Order. He was Past Worshipful Master of Hope Lodge of Masons, Past Excellent High Priest of Robert H. Cage Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Past Illustrious Master of Lafayette Council, Royal and Select Masters. He was a member of Payen Commandery, Knights Templar, and El Karuba Temple of the Shrine. He was also a member of Lafayette Lodge of Elks.

### On State Board

Dr. Saucier was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Huey P. Long. He was to have presented prizes and medals at the commencement exercises at Southwestern Louisiana Institute this morning.

Dr. Saucier was married in 1907 to Miss Florence Hasson, of Gueydan, who survives him. He also leaves a daughter, Miss Mildred Saucier, a student of All Saints College, Vicksburg, Miss.; one son, Maxwell Saucier, member of this year's graduation class at Southwestern Louisiana Institute; five brothers, M. D. and H. F. Saucier of Shreveport, W. E. Saucier of Freeport, Texas, A. A. Saucier of Sacramento, California, and A. V. Saucier, Jr., of Marksville; and seven sisters, Mesdames L. P. Gremillion and G. A. Zernott and Misses Helena, Velma, Julie, and Marjorie Saucier, all of Marksville, and Miss Lou Saucier of Nashville, Tennessee.

### Funeral Today

Funeral services will be held at 5:00 o'clock this afternoon at the family home on College Avenue, and will be conducted by Reverend Louis Hoffpauir, pastor of the First Methodist Church of this city, assisted by Reverend J. N. Brown, local Presbyterian pastor and Reverend Wm. Schuyle, Methodist pastor at Kentwood, La.

Masonic Services, with Knights Templar Escort, will follow those at home and will be conducted at the grave in the Protestant cemetery.

The funeral arrangements are in charge of Rene Delhomme and Son.

The Lafayette Daily Advertiser

February 11, 1930

## Four Priests Honored at Ceremonies Here Invested with the New Title Monsignor

Ceremonies marked by solemn beauty were conducted at the investiture at St. John's Cathedral here at 10:00 o'clock this morning of four members of the Catholic clergy of the Diocese of Lafayette upon whom were conferred the title and dignity of the Monsignor of faithful and meritorious services.

Those invested were Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph Canon Peeters, pastor at St. Martinville; Right Reverend Monsignor Jules R. Canon Bollard, pastor at Abbeville; Right Reverend Monsignor Hubert Canon Cramers, pastor at Lake Charles; and Very Rev. Monsignor John A. Vigliero, Chancellor to Right Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette.

Members of the Diocesan clergy, laymen, and relatives and friends of the four priests were present at the largely attended ceremonies to which the public was invited.

### Procession From Home of Bishop

Monsignor Vigliero, celebrant of the Mass, and Monsignors Peeters, Bollard, and Cramers walked in the procession which formed at the Bishop's home and went from there to St. John's. In the purple robes signifying their new title, they accompanied Bishop Jeanmard and his attendants. Monsignor Vigliero's assistants at the Mass were also in the procession.

Very Reverend Monsignor Phillip Keller read the documents from Rome, embodying the elevation of the four priests, the first being addressed to Monsignors Peeters, Bollard and Cramers by Pope Pius through Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State. Read first in Latin and then in English, the document stated:

Beloved sons, greetings and Apostolic Blessings:

Our Venerable Brother, the Bishop of Lafayette, assures us that you are excellent priests, highly commendable because of your irreproachable character and sterling heart, and who fully deserve to be honored with ecclesiastical dignity and title. We have also learned from him that in the parishes to which you have been assigned you have always worked heart and soul and with enlightened goal for the salvation of souls; and that, in the parishes of which you are now pastors, you have, at the cost of much care and worry, built, completed, or renovated the churches and rectories; that you have always shown



a special interest in the cause of Catholic education and the promotion of vocations to the sacred Priesthood and to the Religious Life.

We, therefore, gladly accede to the wishes of your Bishop in conferring upon you a well deserved reward, and by these apostolic letters and the authority in Us vested, We elect, appoint and Declare you to be Roman Prelates, that is, Our Domestic Prelates. We grant you, moreover, beloved sons, the privilege of lawfully wearing the purple and the rochet even in the Roman Curia, and, besides, the right to use and enjoy each and every honor, privilege, prerogative and indult which other ecclesiastics of similar dignity use and enjoy, or which they may or can use and enjoy. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given under the Fisherman's Seal at St. Peter's, Rome, the 26th day of the month of November in the year 1929, the eight of year of our Pontificate.

#### Monsignor Vigliero's Appointment Read

The reading of Monsignor Keller of the document appointing Monsignor Vigliero Supernumerary Private Chamberlain, in recognition of his services as chancellor and also as Army Chaplain, followed.

The appointment, issued at the Vatican under date of November 5th, 1929 stated:

"His Holiness takes great pleasure in announcing to the Reverend John Vigliero, Priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, that he has been appointed a Supernumerary Private Chamberlain.

(Signed) A. Ottaviani,  
Ford Card, Gaspari  
Secretary of State

#### Tribute Paid By Bishop Jeanmard

Investing the four priests, Bishop Jeanmard paid tribute to their characters and to the achievements which led him to petition Pope Pius to reward them. He spoke of the devotion and zeal with which Monsignors Peeters, Bollard and Cramers have looked after the welfare and promoted the growth of their church parishes and Catholic schools, and to the valuable and earnest services rendered by Monsignor Vigliero as Chancellor of the Diocese. He also expressed praise and admiration for the spirit of patriotism and service exhibited by Monsignor Vigliero as Army Chaplain.

Assisting Monsignor Vigliero in the celebration of the Mass were Very Reverend Jules J. Canon Rousseau, of Franklin, as Deacon; Very Reverend George Dean Mollo, of Crowley, Sub-Deacon; and Reverend Father J. O. Daigle, of Lake Charles, Master of Ceremonies.

Bishop Jeanmard, in Cappa Magna, assisted on the throne.

Assisting at the throne with Bishop Jeanmard, were Right Reverend Monsignor J. M. Langlos, V. G., of New Iberia, Right Reverend Monsignor W. J. Teurlings, of this city; Very Reverend Monsignor Phillip Keller, of this city; and Reverend Father O. A. Broussard, of Franklin, and Reverend Father O. J. Chauvin of this city, who were attendants to Bishop Jeanmard.

Following the Mass, the members of the clergy went to the Bishop's home where two group pictures were taken, one of Monsignor Peeters, Bollard, Cramers and Vigliero, and one of all the clergy.

At noon the newly-titled Monsignors were hosts at a banquet to the Diocesan clergy, at the Holy Rosary Institute, near this city. Monsignor Langlois of New Iberia, presided during an informal program of talks, the speakers including Monsignor Peeters, Bollard, Cramers and Vigliero.

#### Monsignor Peeters Has Long Pastorate

Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph Canon Peeters, whose work as Catholic pastor has been long and active, was born in 1860 at Meerhout, Belgium, and studied at Malines. He was ordained June 4th, 1887 and entered the Archdiocese of New Orleans August, 1892. In December of that year he was appointed pastor at Jennings where he remained until January, 1917, when he was transferred to St. Martinville. He has been pastor there ever since.

In 1915, on the occasion of the blessing of the church in Jennings which had been erected during his pastorate, Monsignor Peeters was made Honorary Canon of St. Louis Cathedral. The Diocese of Lafayette had not been created at that time.

#### Monsignor Bollard Native of France

Right Reverend Monsignor Jules R. Canon Bollard, pastor of Abbeville, was born on Christmas Eve 1868, at Soudon (Ain) France. He studied at Brou, France, and at St. Paul's Minnesota where he was ordained, May 30, 1896. In June of that year he was appointed as assistant at St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, and the next November became assistant of St. John Cathedral here, where he remained until his appointment in January, 1903, to be pastor at Charenton. While there he led in the construction of a new church at Baldwin.

Monsignor Bollard became pastor at Abbeville in June, 1915. He completed erection of the church, which had been started by the late Reverend Father LaForest, and also the present rectory at Abbeville, which is one of the best in the diocese. In June, 1921, on the occasion of his silver jubilee in the priesthood, he was made an Honorary Canon of St. John's Cathedral.

#### Monsignor Cramers Ordained in 1896

Right Reverend Monsignor Hubert Canon Cramers, Lake Charles pastor, was born at Thom, Netherlands, September, 1875, and studied at Roldue, Holland, and at Limburg Louvain, Belgium, where he was ordained in June, 1896. He entered the Archdiocese of New Orleans in December, 1898, which was then in the charge of Archbishop Chapelle.

In December, 1898, Monsignor Cramers was appointed assistant at Houma, and in April, 1899, assistant at Paincourtville. He was named pastor for Cameron, in July of the same year, and pastor of Lake Charles October, 1, 1927, on the occasion of the Solemn Consecration of the church at Lake Charles and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the beginning of his pastorate there.

#### Monsignor Vigliero Chancellor Since 1920

Very Reverend Monsignor John A. Vigliero, a native of Sale Langhe, Italy, was born February 10, 1886, and studied in Genoa. He was ordained September, 1908, and in December of that year he became assistant at St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans. In February, 1914, he was appointed at Patterson where he remained until 1917, when he resigned to devote his time to volunteer work as Army Chaplain. He had previously been appointed Chaplain of the Washington Artillery, of New Orleans, which during the World War became part of the 141st Field Artillery.

# THE ACADIANS OF LOUISIANA

By R. L. Daniels

Appearing in *Scribner's Monthly*, November, 1879

Although the term "Acadian" is strictly appropriate only to the descendants of the Canadians and exiles from Acadie, who were among the early permanent settlers of Louisiana, it may frequently be heard applied to all the humbler classes of French origin throughout the state. Among themselves they are "Creole Francais"; and Acadian--or rather its corruption "Cajun," as they pronounce it--is regarded as implying contempt. Indeed, the educated classes habitually designate those whom they regard as their social inferiors by this objectionable epithet. With the lower orders it is bandied from one to another in the same spirit; and none are so humble as to feel the implied insult. If the situation is favorable, a tist fight is the result, the contest being spiced with such volleys of oaths as, were they translatable, would excite the envy of the most accomplished blasphemer of a western mining town.

These peculiar people are often spoken of as "passing away." This may be true of certain localities. On the Mississippi River, for instance, where they once owned large and valuable tracts of land, they have mostly yielded before the more enterprising, energetic American, the uneducated class moving to the interior, and, as it were, finding their level among their own kind, while the more intelligent that remain are rapidly becoming Americanized--losing their distinctive characteristics through English education, social intercourse, and intermarriages with their American compatriots. But go back from the Mississippi and other navigable streams and from the various towns of importance, to the smaller bayous, where steamboats never come; to the extensive prairies where the whistle of the engine has not yet been heard, and you find genuine Acadians everywhere, unchanged, too, in character and mode of living from what they were fifty--perhaps one hundred--years ago. In fact, the first vital element of change, in the direction of progress,--education,--is lacking. In many of their settlements there are no schools whatever. Now and then a child of the more prosperous class is sent off for a few months or, perhaps, for a year, to a Roman Catholic school. He can read without very much halting and can write, or make others believe he can, is considered well-educated, and, with the requisite amount of shrewdness, may become an oracle in politics, and especially in business affairs, the calculations of which are "carried in the head," after the early manner of Daniel Drew.

The language here is French, corrupted more or less into a patois. This is particularly the case in settlements remote from the public highways of commerce. Take, for instance, Prairie Gros Chevreuil on the upper Teche,--that is the unnavigable portion of Bayou Teche near its source. A ride of some fifteen miles from the old town of Opelousas brings you to the farms extending along the banks of that quiet stream and stretching back from it over the "prairies of fair Opelousas." Embowered in groves of china trees you will find comfortable homes, which are always built in the same plain cottage style, weather-boarded without and plastered within, and with the inevitable galerie or porch in front. They vary in nothing but size. Here there are no deserted farms, no land thrown out for lack of labor, as in many parts of the South since the late war. Here, secluded from the great, busy world, not separated by natural barriers of mountains or seas, but held aloof by their own inertness, the French tongue has with most of the inhabitants degenerated into a dialect that a Parisian would be puzzled to understand. In their own opinion, however, they speak the genuine French. Why should they not, indeed? To be sure, they live in the Union, but as for being Americans--*parbleu!* that is quite another thing. And no one seeing them in their own homes will feel disposed to contradict them. Of Americans, as a class, they have not the highest opinion. Southerners as well as Northerners are "Yankees," unless regarded with exceptional

tavor. If one of their own people is shrewd or tricky in business transactions, he is unceremoniously designated a "Yankee."

Not being a migratory people, their sections are densely settled; what may originally have been a large plantation is often divided and subdivided among children and grand-children during the life of its first proprietor until further partition is impracticable. Parents willingly sacrifice their own comfort to keep their children near them; and the parental affection that prompts this sacrifice is titillally reciprocated. The children mature and marry early, settling down on their terrain contentedly, be it small or otherwise, with no expectation or desire of ever leaving it, and the only subsequent improvements likely to be made are the addition of shed rooms to accommodate the rapidly increasing progeny. A girl of twelve years may take upon herself the responsibilities of wedded life with a helpmate but little older, and following the usages of their elders, these two will address and speak of each other as "*mon vieux*," "*ma vieille*" ("old man," "old woman") with a naivete that is truly refreshing. Grand-parents who have not reached the age of thirty are not infrequent among these people.

Without overtasking themselves--the Acadian who overworks is indeed a *rara avis*,--the most thrifty keep their places in good order, raising small crops of corn, cotton, tobacco, peas and potatoes; and highland rice, also, if the soil is favorable. Creole ponies, horned cattle and hogs, swell their possessions, and contribute to their social dignity. Add to these the *caleche* which the family rides, and the summit of earthly grandeur is attained. By the by, the *caleche* is very unique, and merits more than passing notice. This vehicle is of domestic manufacture; it is two wheeled, hoodless, and springless; the body is of wood, rudely fashioned after the pattern of the old-time gig, and the seats are apparently intended for two persons, but on emergency they develop a capacity for accommodating a dozen. Whether the occupants shrink to suit its dimensions, or it expands to accommodate theirs, tradition saith not. Imagine *Mater-familias*, crowned with an enormous sun-bonnet, in the center of the seat, with children crowded in at each side, more children at her back, still more between the seat and the low dashboard, and with the baby on her lap, guarded by maternal arms which are at the same time extended to hold the reins! "*Allons!*" The reins are lustily flapped at regular intervals, and the respectable, sedate, family horse, in no wise hurried thereby, moves on in a regular jog-trot; at each forward movement the shafts fly far up above his withers, and all the clustered heads in the *caleche* are simultaneously thrown back to be jerked suddenly forward when the shafts fall into position. Above all, the big sun-bonnet flops up and down like the limp wings of some huge bird; ludicrous as it may seem, the unaccustomed spectator is seized with the fancy that those devoted heads must eventually yield to the oft-repeated jerks and come tumbling to the ground. This primitive vehicle is not the only article of domestic make. Baskets, buckets, brooms, split-bottomed and raw-hide seated chairs, besides neat, substantial specimens of cabinet ware, are common articles of manufacture. Fine, durable halters and bridle-reins are twisted of horse-hair, and tobacco is put up *en perique*. This last is the leaf tobacco rolled up in the form of a cigar, but solid and large, the average weight being three pounds. With some of the wife's choicest cottonade, it is taken by the head of the family to town, for sale or barter. These articles, being of superb quality, are easily disposed of at remunerative prices. His saddle-bags being stuffed with bandanna handkerchiefs, material for "Sunday shirts," calico and cheap muslins or delaines for Sunday dresses, the "Cajun" creates an immense sensation in the family and neighborhood on his return home. Whatever else may be needed for clothing is usually of home manufacture. The housewife usually makes palmetto hats, and spins, knits, dyes thread and weaves cloth for household use and personal wear. Domestic needs being thus to a great extent supplied among themselves, debt and its consequent embarrassments are almost unknown.

The lives of these people, from generation to generation, are a mere repetition of the same round of simple pleasures and easy work. Their want of ambition--the indifference to the higher

social and political distinctions--are often commended by those who know but little of them and like to point a moral. But the "Cajun" has his ambitions, though on so insignificant a scale as to appear almost ludicrous to those accustomed to greater things. In his little world, the lofty honors of a coroner or justice of the peace are as eagerly sought and as highly estimated, as are the most prominent political positions in other quarters. Elections are attended with great excitement. Primed with their favorite tafia, or cheap whiskey which they call "rote gote,"--rot-gut,--the voters are noisy and turbulent. Free fights are the order of the day; but, to their credit be it said, no weapons are used except such as are fashioned by nature. To give his foe a black eye, or to make him cry "Assez!" is sufficient glory for the Acadian. Clannish in the extreme, the mutual relationship of candidate and voter generally outweighs personal merit and party principle; and, being almost interminably interlinked by marriages, there are few aspirants who cannot claim a large number of voters on the score. Still, though blood may be thicker than water, it yields to whiskey. The candidate who treats most liberally, both at home and at the boutique, may safely count on being elected.

The boutique, where these political ebullitions usually occur, is the only permanent place of resort for the transaction of public business and for public amusement. It is the rendezvous of a crowd that never entirely disperses until late in the night. There the men congregate seven days in the week; in greater numbers on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, to play cards and keno for small stakes, --usually not more than five cents,--to drink liquor, and to arrange for races, cock-fights, and Saturday night balls. The boutique proper is a stuffy little store, where cheap crockery, hardware, and out-of-date prints, muslins, and delaines are temptingly displayed to the admiring eyes of Acadian womankind; and where coffee, flour, and such delicacies as herring, stale brown sugar, and molasses appeal strongly, in more senses than one, to the longing appetites of all, irrespective of age or sex. But the backbone of the stock in trade is always whisky. With its addenda, the boutique is a rather complex institution. Extending from one side is a comparatively pretentious wing, that reminds one of an overgrown, concelled youth looking down upon his venerable parent as something of an old fogey. This addition is commonly used as a gambling saloon. But it is also, at intervals, the office of the Justice of the Peace, who is clothed in the awful majesty of the law and inspired with the solemn conviction that the welfare of the nation depends to a great extent upon his official dignity. Here, too, on Saturday nights, the Acadian beauty and chivalry meet, and spend the hours dancing gracefully to the harmonious strains of the violin. Candles, in pendent tin candlesticks, shed their rays on the festive scene; and on grand occasions, which demand unusual splendor, others stuck in bottles enhance the brilliancy of the spectacle. Immediately back of the boutique is the family room, which is always filled to its utmost capacity; yet, somehow, as with the caleche, there is always room for the frequent additions.

The sanctum of the boutique, however, is an apartment partitioned off in a way not to render it too conspicuous to outsiders. Fast young men, and delinquent Benedicts, when desirous of secrecy, retire to this room. Seated at little cypress tables, with wine glasses, a carafe of spirits, and little piles of half-dimes beside them, they feel secure, for mine host is guard upon honor against all intrusion. Not that gambling is anyway worse than any other harmless amusement! Perish the mere supposition! But if a man will leave his work for more than a few hours on week-days, or risk more money than he can spare--*eh bien!* that is another thing. What can be better than a little game to pass the time! The Acadians are pre-eminently gregarious, social and communicative, and the traditional skeleton in the closet is with them an impossibility. All their joys and sorrows are discussed with the utmost frankness.

Balls are attended by young and old of both sexes. Cards and keno, horse-races and cock-fights are proper for the most respectable citizen. Their enjoyment is a matter of taste, not a question of ethics. No woman, however, is ever present at the last two entertainments. Sunday, after mass, is devoted to pleasure. Every family makes or receives visits. Numbers gather at

certain houses famed for hospitality. A collation in the morning is indispensable, whether the guests be few or many. Pancakes, with molasses or honey, are handed round. If such dainties are not at command, sweet potatoes, baked as only the Acadian housewife can bake them, are quite the rule. Coffee is always served. Not to offer some refreshment would be as unpardonable a breach of hospitality on the part of the hostess, as for the host to omit bringing forward his carafe of tafia or whisky. Then follows dinner, which begins with gumbo and ends with black coffee. Peanuts, pop-corn or pecans help to kill the time in the afternoon. All this is a matter of course, and churlish indeed must be the family that does not entertain with equal bounty the respectable stranger, or the most shiftless wretch, that may enter the gates. Longfellow says of Acadie, "home of the happy,"—

"Every house was an inn, where all were welcomed  
and feasted;  
For with this simple people, who lived like brothers  
together,  
All things were held in common, and what one  
had was another's."

To some extent this applies to their descendants. But the modern Evangeline has discarded the picturesque Norman cap and kirtle of blue. For the *grande toilette*, a dainty pink, blue or green sun-bonnet crowns her demurely coquettish head; and the *robe de l'indienne*, with closely fitting bodice and long, flowing skirts, adorns her lithe, graceful form. The *camisole*—loose gown—is the approved fashion for elderly women; for men the blouse has the preference.

"Cajun" etiquette is somewhat arbitrary. At all social gatherings, public or private, the men and women sit apart. Only during the dancing is there any freedom of intercourse; even then the girls must be sedate, speak only when spoken to, and keep their eyes modestly lowered. I once heard an Acadian woman remark, "It ees permeet of *les Américaine* to look at *de mans* in *de face*, *mais nos demoiselles!*" finishing off with a significant shrug of the shoulders. On entering a room where there is company, one must shake hands with every person in turn, whether acquainted or not. No one rises for the ceremony except, perhaps, the host or hostess. For a woman, old or young, married or single, to ride, walk, or be entirely alone for a few moments with any member of the opposite sex except father, son, or husband is a gross breach of the proprieties of which the worst may be, and is pretty certain to be, said. Nothing less than the direst extremity will make it excusable for even brother and sister, uncle and niece, to go anywhere together without the company of a third person. The only female who with safety can defy these established "usages" is that personage of supreme importance and assured privileges, the Acadian, "Sairey Gamp." As may be imagined, lovers have a difficult time of it under so many restrictions. The wooing must be done at balls or in the presence of the family. Flirting being impracticable, it is always understood that the wooer means marriage, and consequently, he eagerly avails himself of the few privileges deemed by the rural Mrs. Grundy consistent with the proprieties. These usually begin with prancing, caracoling and racing his horse on the road in front of his "belle's" dwelling-place. He repeats the performance as often as possible, and enjoys it immensely. The more spectators, the greater his delight. The sweets of courtship are necessarily expended on the old folks. Macaboy snuff a *la vanille*, a bottle of anisette, etc. for *maman* go far toward making the course of true love run smooth. With the old gentleman, tact at losing half-dimes is equally effective, always provided the lover comes under the comprehensive descriptive "*bon garçon*." While thus courting the parents, he avails himself of every opportunity to make "sweet eyes" at the daughter, and, after a few weeks of such wooing, proposes. The ball-room is generally the place; when the pleasurable excitement of the waltz has reached its climax, while her slender waist is encircled by his arm, and

her head almost leans upon his shoulder, then comes the opportunity. If the coy maid favors his suit, he instantly seeks the approval of her parents. With that, one might think the affair settled. But no; he must obtain the permission of the numerous relatives of the bride-elect, even to the cousins, who may be of no special importance. Dressed in his nattiest suit, he proudly prances around on the grand tour, and formally asks the consent of each in turn. Advanced from the dubious position of suitor to that of fiancé, he and his betrothed are still under a strict surveillance that is anything but agreeable; so he naturally hastens the wedding-day that is to convert the tantalized lover into the proud and happy husband. Verily, for a simple people these parents of marriageable daughters are admirably wise in their generation, and it is not surprising that there are very few single persons or either sex among them. From early childhood, the boy is taught to look forward to the time when he shall be a man and marry a pretty girl. The ambition increases with his growth, and he seldom makes a mercenary match. If a man has the hardihood to prefer a single life, he must bear chaffing and taunts of lack of manliness, from his best friends. On the other hand, a man of family may attain a degree of importance that no bachelor may hope for. Weddings are occasions for general rejoicing. "No feasting and dancing--no wedding." We once asked an Acadian, who always scented the aroma of bridal banquets from afar, about a wedding which, uninvited, he had ridden many miles to attend.

"Wedding? *Ma foi!* All nonsense--no teexens at all!" replied the disappointed gourmand.

In this case the bride was in mourning. The family lived in a more intelligent community, else she would not have had the courage to have been married at a time when gayeties are prohibited.

Among the amusements of this people, it would scarcely be amiss to class cases of dangerous illness and funerals, so much substantial enjoyment do they manage to get out of such events. If a person is pronounced to be in peril from some malady, men, women and children rush to the scene of the suffering. Horses and caleches stand thickly around the front yard. Groups of men gossip on the galleries; the sick-room is filled with both sexes, sitting apart as usual, and all staring at the patient and keeping up an incessant talk in subdued tones. Squads of women discuss the symptoms of the sufferer, and criticise the physician's treatment. "He is French, true; but *mon Dieu!* what would you? even a French doctor cannot know everything," and they relate in turn marvelous cures performed by themselves with certain *tisanes* and cataplasms, and shake their heads wisely and sigh heavily over the hopeless condition of the sick one. Boys and girls, young men and maidens, also make the most of the occasion by happening to meet in the back galleries, where they can throw "sheep-eyes" at each other for one fleeting moment. Long tables are spread, one after another, with the best food which the afflicted family can offer, and coffee is served at intervals, both night and day. All this continues until the patient is restored; or until he or she is carried from the scene of decorous festivities to the grave. As may be imagined, few critical cases recover; around the bed of the dying there is no self-repression. Friends and relatives weep and lament in utter abandonment, imploring the sufferer not to leave them, and invoking all the saints in a manner most distressing even to the disinterested spectator. The priest comes, administers the last sacred rites and departs. The hapless mortal about to be ushered into eternity sees no one bending over him with calm re-assuring look, and hears no comforting, encouraging words. If the departing soul is conscious, what must it feel in this heart-rending tumult of woe?

When all is over, the corpse is arrayed as for a gala day, new shoes being indispensable. A crucifix is laid upon his breast, lighted candles at the head and feet, a dish of holy water with a sprig of bay leaves, blessed on Palm Sunday, by the side. Every one who approaches dips the leaves in the water, and sprinkles the inanimate form, murmuring a prayer for the repose of the soul. The singing of the indescribably mournful hymns is kept up during the night by some of the numerous watchers; and not until the last moment is the body placed in the coffin. The most violent demonstrations of grief attend this sad office. At the church, if the family can afford the

expense, lighted candles are given to those in attendance, and are carried in the procession to the grave, where once more the loss of the dead is bewailed. All interments are in the consecrated ground of churches near or in the towns. The time for mourning their dead is regulated, as they will tell you, by their religion. For an infant, from one to three months; a child, a brother, sister, aunt or uncle, six months; father, mother, husband or wife, one year. Black is worn during the prescribed season, and all amusements are utterly foregone; music, either vocal or instrumental, is considered sacrilegious. No people exceed the Acadians in conforming to the letter of the law, whether social, civil or religious.

The Acadian woman is capricious and quick-tempered, yet amiable and warm-hearted; for her anger is soon expended and frankly deplored. Neat and industrious, she fills her role of housewife during the week and enjoys her gossip on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Gossip she must have; it is the spice of her uneventful life, the sole nutriment of her mental faculties; without it her existence would be dreary stagnation. The gossiping may often lean to censoriousness, yet if the tongue thoughtlessly wounds, the heart is pitiful and the hands are ever ready to minister to all physical necessities. But whatever she may be, she is always womanly and, with rare exceptions, virtuous.

Of Acadian virtues,—which are mostly passive,—hospitality and practical charity are the most prominent. To assist a neighbor, whether in want of sustenance or in want of help, either in farming or building, is nothing more than being "a good neighbor." The one who profits by his neighbor's extremity gains no social advancement with his ill-gotten wealth. They are not jealous, vindictive, nor greedy of wealth, and crime is almost unknown among them. Except for some poor fellow smuggling off a head or more of cattle, when the driver makes his annual tour to buy up surplus stock for the New Orleans market, and for the brawls at the polls or at the places of amusement, the occupation of justice or the peace would soon be gone.

The men are successful and indefatigable hunters, experts in the piscatorial art, agile riders, graceful dancers, and inveterate gossips. The world at large has accorded the palm of excellence in the art of gossip to the fair sex; here, it impartial, it must bestow it on the sterner one. The very prince of gossips, with whom nothing in the feminine line, to our knowledge, can compete, is usually some genial old fellow, who has handed over his possessions to his children for a consideration. Having nothing to do but to "distract" himself,—and we may safely add, his neighbors, also,—he is always going from place to place, and always gossiping. He attends all the weddings and funerals, nurses all the sick, and cures those who get well. Of such as give up the ghost,—why, he can tell you exactly by whose fault it occurred. But, look you! It must go no further.

The sole innovation—successfully introduced for an age into these self-isolated communities—is crinoline. Long after hoops had "gone out" in the fashionable world, a merchant of New Orleans, by way of experiment, shipped a lot which he had on hand, to various remote hamlets. Great was the consternation among the simple folk of *Prairie Gros Chevreuil*, when they heard of the arrival of the obnoxious merchandise. Had they not seen them when they went to town to sell their cotton and their perique? A horror! a barbarism! Good enough certainly for the Americans, and such others as are the pitiable ignorance of propriety; but for themselves—God forbid! Men of the family swore they would not be disgraced by women making *bizarre* fools of themselves. Excitement culminated at the following Saturday-night ball, when *Madame de la boutique* appeared on the scene in gloriously expanded skirts. For once the ever-ready oaths tailed the men. They gazed in dumb, open-mouthed astonishment upon this audacious traitor to their sacred social traditions. Alas for the bravado! They gazed too long! Crinoline conquered. Madame was the belle of the ball. Not a man, married or single, did not beg the honor of her hand for quadrille or waltz. Virtuous indignation swelled the breasts of the women. "That was always the way with the men. They were forever praising plain dress to their wives and daughters; but,



*ma foi!* they liked gay birds best, after all." The sequel of this dramatic episode was enacted the following week. Early on Monday morning, women on horseback and in caleches might be seen wending their way toward the boutique; this continued day after day, until the supply of "oops"—it is the thing for them to quote English as for us to quote French—was exhausted. The New Orleans merchant doubtless plumed himself upon his astuteness, when, a few days later, an order came for another supply of these articles.

In organization, the genuine Acadian of Gros Chevreuil is inferior to his American compatriot. His average height is below the medium, and though generally well-proportioned he cannot be pronounced muscular; nor yet can he boast that vitality which sometimes proves an equivalent for physical vigor. He is generally lean in person, with a decided tendency to desiccation, that often leads to the remark, "Cajuns do not die like other people; they dry up and blow away." Not so the women, however. That *ne plus ultra* of maidenly beauty, slenderness of form, soon expands in the matron into permanent portliness. But it is a notable fact that no matter how lowly the estate of the Acadian girl, she is seldom coarse featured, never angular in person, nor really awkward or uncouth in manner. Graceful in form and movement, she has besides the smoothest of black hair, and the brightest of liquid-jet eyes to contrast favorably with her olive-tinted complexion, making a pleasing *tout ensemble*. Although whatever may be correctly stated of the inhabitants of the Upper Teche is more or less applicable to all of the so-called "Cajuns," the inhabitants of the prairies are far superior in size, vigor, and activity to the inland bayou Acadians. Whether of true Acadian descent or mixed with the old Spanish Creoles, as they are in some localities, they are notable in various degrees for their mental and physical inertia, and for their lack of enterprise. In the Atchafalaya region, on the Bayou Pierrepau, Gotell, Des Ours, etc., they live almost exclusively on fish and water-fowl, cultivating generally nothing more than a scant supply of corn and rice for home use. On Bayou du Large, in the La Fourche country, it is much the same; the men, however, devote much of their time to hunting, supplying adjacent towns and the New Orleans market with immense quantities of ducks and venison. In situations upon which the swamp encroaches, their time is about equally divided between fishing, eating, sleeping and shaking with ague.

Where the Prairie Gros Chevreuil borders on the great Cypress swamp, the deterioration of the Acadians, due to the intermarriage of near relatives, is disagreeably conspicuous. Attend mass in any one of the neighborhoods, as the writer has done, and the first thing that strikes you is the number of yellow-green eyes, with glittering white rays in the iris, as in those of the black cat. If you are a stranger, all of those black eyes stare at you. And such a stare!—so fixed, so blank, so uncanny, you must needs have strong nerves to overcome an unpleasant chilliness that creeps at the roots of your hair, and down your spine. When you rally from the repulsive fascination of such weird eyes, you perceive that most of them gleam from faces that profiles of which are almost right angles, the point of the nose being the vertex. The majority of the men are under-sized, and narrow-shouldered, with corpulent bodies, "pipe-stem" arms and legs, and sallow, wrinkled faces. As among the "Catfish Cajuns," the women are better developed, more intelligent and energetic than the men.

The finest specimens of Acadian physique are to be found among the herdsmen of the Attakapas prairies. Superb riders, generally tall and well formed, with the black hair and large black eyes of their race, they are certainly fine-looking fellows. Some of them have developed into first-class cattle thieves, and in a few instances they have gone a degree beyond cattle stealing. However, one must admit that no people have furnished fewer criminals than the Acadians of interior Louisiana, who live out their simple lives without knowing the outside world or being known by it. Conclusions as to their capabilities as a race can be reached only by observing the results where they have had opportunities for developing their natural endowments of body and mind. None of them, in the most favorable circumstances, manifests the enterprise, strength of

character, or intellect with which the descendants of the direct French *émigré* are often gifted. Of the various churches, only the Roman Catholic has had the *entrée* here. No other could possibly have its influence, which is illimitable among them. But so far its labors have been limited to religious instruction and to establishing expensive convents and colleges in adjacent towns. Supposing these people to be ambitious, not many can afford to send their children to those institutions for more than a few months. Good, inexpensive schools in their midst are what they need. I have been informed that when free schools were established in the parishes of St. Martin's and St. Mary's, after the close of the war, many Acadian children at first attended, but were withdrawn by their parents upon the protest of the Roman Catholic clergy against such a course. It now remains to be seen whether the "spiritual mother" will do as much for the enlightenment of her undoctored, docile children as the civil authorities are willing to do.

#### Sketches of Nineteenth-Century Louisiana Acadians



A FIVE-ACRE DASH.



A FIVE-ACRE DASH.

# Sketches, Continued



A PATRIARCH.



AN ACADEMIC BASKET MAKER.



A YOUNG GIRL.



A YOUNG MOTHER.

# THE RAMSEYS OF VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Submitted by *Zilda Whitfield*

## DR. JAMES BARTLETT RAMSEY

Dr. James Bartlett Ramsey was born on August 27, 1820, in Meridian, Mississippi, the son of Ambrose Knox Ramsey, and Nancy Graves Yancey. He died on June 7, 1896 at Rice Cove, near Abbeville, La., and is buried at Ramsey Plantation there.

During the Civil War, he served with the rank of captain, as a field surgeon in Harrison's Regiment stationed near Vicksburg, Mississippi. He also had six brothers who served the Confederacy: Pvt. John Milton Ramsey, General Bartlett Yancey Ramsey, Capt. Ambrose Knox Ramsey, Jr., Pvt. William Ragland Ramsey, Capt. Matthew Scurlock Ramsey, and Pvt. Edward Tryon Ramsey. Two of James Ramsey's brothers were doctors.

Dr. James Ramsey was educated in Louisville, Kentucky at Transylvania College. The medical books which he used there are now in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Ruth Ramsey Grant, who lives in Baton Rouge, La.

A country doctor, Dr. Ramsey worked in the rural areas in and around Abbeville, La. There is a Ramsey Road in the area today which is named in his honor. The plantation, once owned by the Bagley family, was also named in Ramsey's honor. There is nothing left of this house now and the cemetery there is now grown over.

On May 28, 1846, James Ramsey married Elizabeth Cole in North Carolina. She was the daughter of William Love Cole and Harriott Cornelia Ellerbee. Elizabeth Ann Cole was born on February 26, 1830 in Rockingham, South Carolina. She died on January 17, 1893, probably in Abbeville, La.

To the union of James and Elizabeth Ramsey were born nine children:

1. Mary Cornelia Ramsey, born April, 4, 1847, married in November, 1865 to Louis Naylor (Taylor).
2. William Cole Ramsey, born January 3, 1843, married to Helen I. Huntley.
3. Ambrose Knox Ramsey, born September 18, 1850, Married Laura Alice O'Bryan on April 15, 1875 and he died January 8, 1926.
4. Harriott Ann Ramsey, born August 14, 1853, married Edmond Anderson Rose, and died in 1938.
5. Peter Hunter Ramsey, born August 17, 1856, married on September 27, 1883 to Harriett Belle Haner, died October 10, 1934.
6. Elizabeth Crawford Ramsey, born November 22, 1858, married William Bludworth on March 11, 1886.
7. Daisy "Babe" Ramsey, born March 12, 1861, died on August 16, 1861.
8. Mattie Scurlock Ramsey, born January 13, 1886, married Horace Piggot Rushing on March 5, 1923 and died November 10, 1940.
9. Ella Ramsey, born February 19, 1870, died March 30, 1870.

## AMBROSE KNOX RAMSEY

Ambrose was born September 17, 1850, in Meridian, Mississippi, the son of Dr. James Bartlett Ramsey and Elizabeth Ann Cole. He died at Glenmore, Louisiana on January 28, 1926 and is buried in Gueydan, Louisiana.

On April 15, 1875, he married Laura Alice O'Bryan at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Abbeville, La. Laura was the daughter of James Daniel O'Bryan and Mary Alzenith Perry of Perry's Bridge (now Perry, La.).

To this union were born the following children:

1. James Daniel Ramsey, born January 27, 1876, married on June 8, 1901 to Essie Thomas, died December 6, 1940.
2. Robert Cole Ramsey, born June 26, 1877, died October 19, 1885.
3. Ella Frances Ramsey, born May 27, 1879, died September 25, 1901.
4. Ambrose Knox Ramsey, born May 30, 1883, married Effie Margaret Gillentine on May 30, 1910, died December 23, 1957.
5. Matthew Ignatius Ramsey, born April 23, 1886, married on September 20, 1906 to Marie Edolise Meyers, died February 26, 1855.
6. Marie Lillian Ramsey, born February 22, 1888, married Clem Rockwall Miller on September 16, 1919.
7. John Milton Ramsey, born November 24, 1892, married Eurith Marshall on November 24, 1912, and died in July of 1945.

Ambrose Knox Ramsey acted as overseer at the Ramsey Plantation at one time.

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An article which appeared in *The Louisiana Christian*, Amite, La., March 6, 1955. Submitted by Zilda Whitfield

Mathew I. Ramsey, born at Abbeville, La., April 23, 1886, died at 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, February 26, 1955 at the family residence, Beaumont, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Edolise Meyers Ramsey; five daughters; one son; eighteen grandchildren; and, one brother, A. K. Ramsey, Amite, La.

He was born on Good Friday, and, naturally was called "Good Friday" through early childhood. Then for a time kinfolk and close friends called him "Friday." But he outgrew that too as either "Matt" or M. I. came to be the accepted name by which he was known.

He was an interesting character of deep convictions and a strong personality. He loved life and lived a philosophy of contentment finding great joy in hard work and peace and happiness in family and home life.

He learned the printers trade in early life and was an artistic craftsman in that field. For about thirty years he owned, edited and published the Gueydan News, and the Kaplan Times at Gueydan, La. He also was elected and served one or more terms as Mayor of Gueydan.

He sold his newspapers and moved with his family to Beaumont about ten years ago where for the rest of his life he was employed by the Daily Enterprise. He worked at his desk within a week of his death.

In sports he liked hunting and fishing, and being a good marksman, knocked many a duck and bird out of the air, and caught many a fine fish. For the past five years, however, due to illness, he was unable to either hunt or fish, but he could fill his place at the desk in the office.

He took his illness philosophically and even in his most recent letters to me he slipped in a few of his favorite jokes. About six months ago he suffered a heart attack, but rallied and resumed his work getting along fairly well until about one week before the fatal attack last Saturday, February 26.

For many years we two brothers saw little of each other. In the summer of 1954 he with his wife, a daughter and her husband and their sons, came through Amite on their way to New Orleans and stopped at our home, and that was the last time we were together.

This is about all. The life on earth is ended. The tale of years is told. A veil is mercifully drawn between the two worlds. Only God knows when it shall be lifted and what the future holds. But the judgements of God are inerrant and are tempered with mercy.

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## ROBERT PERRY

*By Zilda Whitfield*

He was born in Pennsylvania, of Scottish-Irish descent. As a boy, he and his family moved to Kentucky. At age 19, he ran away from home and went (in 1806) to Louisiana leaving his family behind in Campbell County, Kentucky.

By 1827 Robert Perry owned stores on each side of the Vermilion River near Abbeville, the settlement was called Perry's Bridge after Robert Perry. Here he also maintained a tanyard. Cattle hides were sold here in sufficient numbers to have warranted an apprentice in 1821.

Among other holdings, Perry owned a cotton plantation, corn plantation, a sugar plantation, and, by 1830, two keel boats, and one schooner. In 1818 Perry purchased a tanyard on the Grand Prairie near Opelousas. He also owned a tavern and mercantile store at Bayou Chicot.

In 1820 Robert Perry married Elzemily Booth of Georgia. She was the daughter of Reubon (Robert) Booth and Mary J. (Polly) Moss. To this union were born the following children: Mary Ann Perry, Mary Alzenith Perry, Adeline Perry, August C. Perry, John Franklin Perry, Robert S. Perry, Amanda Perry, Oliver H. Perry, and Laura Perry.

In 1840 Perry built a home on the Vermilion River (with the help of slave labor) which remains today across the river from the town of Perry, La. The family cemetery is located at Perry and is known as the Perry-O'Bryan Historical Cemetery, and, this is where many members of the Perry family are buried.

Robert Perry was appointed the first sheriff of Vermilion Parish by Governor Alex Mouton in 1844.

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## Yellow Fever Update

*Submitted by Carl Brasseaux*

Lafayette, La. Yellow Fever, 1867. Here is a list of persons who have died at Vermilionville and in its vicinity, since the 20th of September: Mr. Flowers, a child of Mr. Flowers, a child of Mr. Domingue, J. B. Roch, Miss Arceneaux, Don Louis Broussard, P. L. St. Julien, Robert Taylor, Frank Taylor, Mr. Dufour, Sr., M. Germain, Emilien Landry, a child of O. R. Mouton, Octave Bertrand, Théogène Judice, Ed. Patin, Mrs. André Martin, Clébert Latiolais, two colored children. Total, 20.

Two weeks ago we published a list of 27 persons who died up to the 20th inst.; this last list of 20 will then make an aggregate of 47 deaths from yellow fever up to the 1st of October.

# BIRTHS REPORTED IN *THE DAILY ADVERTISER*, 1900-1905

Compiled by *Alvin Y. Bethard*

- Alpha, Mr. and Mrs. Jim, a boy, March 21, 1903, page 4, column 1
- Benoit, Mr. and Mrs. Dupre, a boy, September 30, 1903, page 5, column 2
- Billeaud, Mr. and Mrs. Joe, a boy, December 2, 1903, page 1, column 4
- Broussard, Mr. and Mrs. Alex M., a girl, September 8, 1905, page 5, column 3
- Broussard, Mr. and Mrs. Felix, a girl, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Broussard, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney, a girl, September 9, 1903, page 1, column 5
- Buchanan, Capt. and Mrs. J. C., a girl, October 18, 1905, page 5, column 3
- Butcher, Mr. and Mrs. William, a girl, September 23, 1903, page 5, column 1
- Castel, Mr. and Mrs. Joe, a girl, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 3
- Chargois, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin, a girl, October 28, 1903, page 5, column 2
- Chase, Mr. and Mrs. Ed, a girl, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Clark, Mr. and Mrs. A. S., a boy, August 5, 1903, page 4, column 1
- DeClouet, Mr. and Mrs. George, a boy, May 23, 1903, page 1, column 6
- Delahoussaye, Mr. and Mrs. Demas, a boy, August 26, 1903, supplement, page 1, column 2
- Domengeaux, Mr. and Mrs. J. R., a boy, December 6, 1902, page 4, column 1
- Flukinger, Mr. and Mrs. W. T., a boy, November 2, 1904, page 9, column 1
- Fontenot, Mr. and Mrs. H. L., a boy, March 14, 1903, page 4, column 1
- Graser, Mr. and Mrs. J. J., a girl, November 18, 1903, page 1, column 3
- Guilbeaux, Mr. and Mrs. O. P., a boy, October 28, 1903, page 5, column 2
- Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. O. B., a girl, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Kenedy [sic], Mr. and Mrs. J. L., a boy, March 21, 1903, page 4, column 1
- Kraus, Mr. and Mrs. P., a boy, September 9, 1903, page 5, column 5
- Landry, Mr. and Mrs. A., a boy, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Landry, Mr. and Mrs. Felix H., a girl, October 14, 1903, page 6, column 2

- Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Luc, a boy, February 8, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Morvant, Mr. and Mrs. Anatole, a girl, March 7, 1903, page 1, column 5
- Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, a girl, October 14, 1903, page 6, column 2
- Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin, a girl, October 28, 1903, page 5, column 2
- Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert, a boy, August 2, 1902, page 4, column 1
- Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. O. J., a boy, May 11, 1901, page 1, column 1
- Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, a boy, March 14, 1903, page 4, column 1
- Mudd, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sterling, a boy, November 18, 1903, page 1, column 3
- Nickerson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C., a girl, June 14, 1902, page 1, column 6
- Nickerson, Mr. and Mrs., J. C., a boy, December 16, 1903, page 1, column 2
- Pellerin, Mr. and Mrs. B. J., a girl, December 2, 1903, page 1, column 4
- Pellerin, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel, a girl, October 14, 1903, page 6, column 2
- Pellerin, Mr. and Mrs. Raoul, a girl, January 27, 1900, page 1, column 2
- Pellerin, Mr. and Mrs. Raoul, a girl, October 14, 1903, page 6, column 2
- Pellertier, Mr. and Mrs. D., a boy, December 13, 1902, page 1, column 5
- Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. H. L., a girl, December 27, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Poimboeuf, Mr. and Mrs. Ed, a girl, January 18, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Prudhomme, Mr. and Mrs. Ed, a boy, November 4, 1903, page 5, column 2
- Ruckman, Mr. and Mrs. F. A., a girl, October 18, 1905, page 5, column 1
- Ruger, Mr. and Mrs. H. K., a boy, September 9, 1903, page 1, column 5
- Voorhies, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred, a girl, November 18, 1903, page 1, column 3
- Voorhies, Mr. and Mrs. E. G., a girl, February 15, 1905, page 5, column 2
- Voorhies, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph, a boy, September 20, 1902, page 4, column 1
- Wischan, Mr. and Mrs. Otto, a girl, February 8, 1908, page 5, column 2



# ST. MARY PARISH TREASURERS, 1853-1888

Compiled by *William T. Shinn*

January 6, 1853 -- Bond of John A. Dumartrait, who "has been appointed by the aforesaid Police Jury treasurer of the parish of St. Mary." Gabriel L. Fuselier and Henry Gibbon, securities. Samuel L. Ranadlett, President of Police Jury. Approved by J. A. Dumartrait, Recorder, C. Johnson and William Pumphrey. Oath Book 1 page 23

July 31, 1853 -- "Simeon Smith, as Parish Treasurer of the Parish of St. Mary has been by virtue of the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana approved 28th April 1853, constituted 'Depository of the School Fund apportioned or collected for the use of said Parish of St. Mary'..." Cheney Johnson and Thomas J. Foster, securities. Approved by Wilcoxon and Thomas J. Foster of the Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 20

April 13, 1860 -- Bond of Joseph V. Fourmy, who "has been appointed by the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Mary, Treasurer of said Parish. Jules G. Olivier and William F. Hairleigh, securities." Oath Book 1 page 81

July 10, 1866 -- Bond of Wilson McKerall who "has been elected Treasurer of the Parish of St. Mary and is in consequence thereof Treasurer of the public school fund of said Parish." Charles C. Palfrey and F. P. Perret, securities. Accepted by Robert W. Allen, Clerk, J. G. Parkerson, Recorder, and Samuel L. Randlett, President of Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 96

August 31, 1867 -- Bond of Wilson McKerall who "has been elected Parish Treasurer of the Parish of St. Mary and in consequence thereof Treasurer of the Public School Fund of said Parish." F. P. Perret and Chas. C. Palfrey, securities. Approved August 31, 1867 "for the year 1867" by Samuel L. Randlett, President Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 99

August 1, 1868 -- Bond of Wilson McKerall, who "has been elected Parish Treasurer of the Parish of St. Mary and in consequence thereof Treasurer of the Public School Fund." Charles C. Palfrey and Francois P. Perret, securities. Approved by J. G. Parkerson, Recorder, and J. W. Lyman, Jr., Clerk District Court. Oath Book 1 page 103

April 15, 1873 -- Bond of Newman Trowbridge, with Isaac Trowbridge Jr. as security, as elected by Police Jury. Approved by Isaac D. Seyburn, President of Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 129.

January 10, 1874 -- Isaac D. Seyburn, President of the Police Jury, released Marcus Walker from all liabilities as Treasurer of the Parish of St. Mary and cancelled his bond dated July 7, 1871. Oath Book 1 page 136

February 1, 1874 -- Bond of Newman Trowbridge, with Isaac Trowbridge Jr., security, approved by W. D. Chambers, President of Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 114

March 12, 1874 -- Release to Newman Trowbridge by W. D. Chambers, President of Police Jury "from all liability as Treasurer of the said Parish of St. Mary for the year 1873" and bond given April 15, 1873 released. Oath Book 1 page 128

February 4, 1875 -- Bond of Newman Bridge, with Isaac Trowbridge Jr. as security, approved by M. W. Rogers, President of Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 116

June 2, 1877 -- Homer H. Smith, bond with J. Todd, Fred Gates, Thomas J. Foster and Valentine Schwan as securities. Approved by W. P. Kemper, President of Police Jury, R. M. Newman, Clerk of Court and J. B. Verdun Jr., Recorder. Oath Book 1 page 153

May 18, 1882 -- Bond of John A. O'Neill. Donelson Caffery, Albert Hanson, William W. Johnson, Dr. Charles M. Smith, James Taylor, Walter S. Torian, Henry J. Sanders, Valentine Schwan, Louis Kramer and Henry D. Smith, securities. Oath Book 1 page 164

July 31, 1884 -- Bond of John A. O'Neill. Albert Hanson, William W. Johnson, Dr. Charles M. Smith, A. G. Frere and Isaac Trowbridge, securities. Accepted by Thomas J. Foster, President Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 171

February 27, 1886 -- Bond of John A. O'Neill. MOB 30 page 717 No. 19670.

January 31, 1887 -- Bond of John A. O'Neill. MOB 31 page 240 No. 19830.

July -----, 1888 -- Bond of John A. O'Neill. Albert Hanson, Alexander G. Frere, Isaac Trowbridge, Henry C. Smith and J. M. Burguières, sureties. Approved by T. J. Foster, President of the Police Jury. Oath Book 1 page 176.

## INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF ALEXANDRE DECLOUET

Translated by Tamara D. McGinnis

Parish of St. Martin, this day the twenty second day of February in the year Eighteen hundred sixteen, We, Paul Briant, Parish Judge, went to the last place of abode of the late Alexandre DeClouet for the purpose of proceeding to and directing the necessary operations relative to the succession of the estate of the aforementioned gentleman.

In light of the fact that Mademoiselle Marie Francoise Arthémise DeClouet, daughter of Alexandre DeClouet, was a minor (20 years old), she requested that Mr. Benoit de St. Clair act as her curator. Mr. St. Clair, being in our presence, accepted the request and swore to fulfill his duties as curator to the best of his ability and adhering to the law.

Signed by Mlle. Marie Francoise Arthémise DeClouet and Benoit de St. Claire in our presence, Judge Paul Briant, and in the presence of the under-signed witnesses on this day the twenty second of February in the year Eighteen hundred sixteen. Signed: Paul Briant, Parish Judge: Arthémise DeClouet, Benoit de St. Clair.

# **AUCTION SALE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE SUCCESSION OF MICHEL RITTER, SEPTEMBER 13, 1804**

On this thirteenth day of the month of September, 1804, we, Honore DELACHARTE, Civil Commander of the Opelousas Post for the United States of America, travelled to the residence of Dame Marie Louise, widow of Michel RITTER, which is at a distance of 12.5 miles, in order to proceed with the requisition and, in conformity with the notices and publications made by us regarding the sale and adjudication of all property whatever belonging to the community between her and her spouse, we proceeded in the following manner in the presence of those appearing for the succession sale.

First we announced in a loud and intelligible voice that the sale would be made to the highest and last bidder, which buyer shall give good and valid bond to secure the payment of the price of his purchase in cash current money used in this colony in two installments, the first in the month of June of the next year 1805, the second in the month of June, 1806. We proceeded in the following manner in the presence of our witnesses, Mr. Charles Smith and Mr. Lamordiere.

The first items presented for sale were four \_\_\_\_\_, a trying plane, a plane and a grinding tool adjudicated to Mr. Francois Suire for three piastres and a half. Bond of Mr. William Johnson.

Item: Seven chisels, two caulking irons and a great number of tools, adjudicated to Mr. Jean Taler for six piastres. Bond of Mr. Ben Smith.

Item: A whole turnery, tools, and seat included, adjudicated to Mr. Jean Taler for thirteen piastres. Bond of Mr. Ben Smith.

Item: Old irons adjudicated to Mr. Augustin Remi for one and a half piastres. Bond of Mr. Ben Smith.

Item: A \_\_\_\_\_, a tool for cutting crozes, a plane, for cooperage adjudicated to Mr. Ben Smith for one piastre. Bond of Mr. Thomas Gholson.

Item: A scythe its anvil and its hammer, three sickles, adjudicated to Mr. Guillaume Gilchrist for two piastres and two escalins. Bond of Mr. Domingue Prejean.

Item: Two iron wedges and an axe, adjudicated to Mr. Joseph Savoin for five piastres and two escalins. Bond of Mr. Guillaume Gilchrist.

Item: A crosscut saw, adjudicated to Mr. Jean Taler for five piastres and two escalins. Bond of Mr. Ben Smith.

Item: A hemp reed, a pair of strap-hinges, a compass saw, a glue container, an old lock, two plane blades, adjudicated to Mr. Ben Smith for three and one-half piastres. Bond of Mr. Baptiste David.

Item: A thirty-tooth spring harrow, an axe head, adjudicated to Mr Baptiste Mathurin for seven piastres. Bond of Mr. Silvert Mouton.

Item: Two trowels and a polishing tool, adjudicated to Mr. Robert Burleigh. Bond of Mr. Thomas Gholson.

Item: Two wood choppers for posts and clapboards, adjudicated to Mr. Robert Burleigh for eight piastres. Bond of Mr. William Johnson.

Item: Two squaring and rough-hewing axes, adjudicated to Mr. Edouard Rose for eleven piastres. Bond of Guillaume Gilchrist.

Item: Four picks, a shovel, two hatchets, adjudicated to Mr. Francois Suire for seven piastres. Bond of Mr. W. Johnson.

Item: A Spanish saddle and its bridle, adjudicated to Mr. Jean Guilbeau for eight piastres. Bond of Mr. Pierre Potier.

Item: Two demijohns, adjudicated to Mr. G. Gilchrist for six piastres. Bond of Mr. Domingue Prejean.

Item: Two other demijohns, adjudicated to Mr. Andre Meche for four piastres. Bond of Mr. Pierre Potier.

Item: Two \_\_\_\_\_ adjudicated to Mr. Ben Smith for six piastres. Bond of Mr. Thomas Gholson.

Item: A twelve-flagon liquor cabinet adjudicated to Mr. William Johnson for four piastres. Bond of Mr. Robert Burleigh.

Item: Sixty bottles, adjudicated to Mr. Louis Buhot for seven piastres. Bond of Thomas Gholson.

Item: Two demijohns, adjudicated to Mr. Ben Smith for six piastres. Bond of Mr. Robert Burleigh.

Item: Old Irons, adjudicated to Mr. Daniel Boons for one piastre. Bond of Mr. Andre Meche.

Item: Corks, adjudicated to Mr. Baptiste Mathurin for four escalins in cash.

Item: A six-flagon liquor cabinet, adjudicated to Mr. Joseph Savoie for seven escalins. Bond of Mr. Andre Meche, paid cash.

Seeing that there was nothing more to sell we have ended and closed said auction which brought a total of 4,121 piastres and six escalins, signing with the interested parties and witnesses, making mention of the demand by the said interested parties that Dame Michel RITTER, their step-mother, satisfied with the good treatment of her, consented on her own accord to divide in half the sum of 765 piastres from her inheritance from her father, which we have done according to her intentions. Also, all the family and friends present have named as under-tutor Mr. Smith who has accepted the duty, and have all signed with me, Commander, this fourteenth day of September, 1804.

## Queries

I am seeking information on the ancestors of Josephine Armelin who was married to Laurent Sigur on December 10, 1822. She was born in Kingston, Jamaica and died in Louisiana. Any information on the Armelin or Sigur lines would be greatly appreciated.

Information may be forwarded to :

Andrew P. Mayer, M. D.  
3929 Octavia Street  
New Orleans, La. 70125

I am seeking information on the Touchet and Simon families of Vermilion Parish. Anyone with information on those families is requested to contact:

Ron Bodin at the Center for Louisiana Studies.

I am also seeking informants who have some knowledge of bootlegging operations in the state during Prohibition days, 1919-1933. Any information would be appreciated.

Finally, I am seeking information on World War II rationing. I would appreciate any information provided. Thanks, Ron Bodin.

## Center for Louisiana Studies: Publications in the Press, 1990

*The Gift of the Wild Things: The Life of Caroline Dorman*  
by Fran Holman Johnson

*The Attakapas Domesday Book: Land Grants, Claims and Certifications in the Attakapas District,  
1764-1826*  
by Glenn R. Conrad

*Flore Louisiane: An Ethno-Botanical Study of French Speaking Louisiana*  
by Walter C. Holmes

*A Sesquicentennial History of the New Orleans Public School System*  
by Joseph Logsdon and Donald Devore

*The Road to Louisiana: French Refugees from St. Domingue*  
by David Cheramie

*The European Travel Diaries of Duncan Farrar Kenner (1833-1834)*  
by Garner Ranney

*The "Foreign French": Nineteenth Century French Immigration into Louisiana, Vol. 1, 1820-1839*  
by Carl A. Brasseaux

*Voodoo, Past and Present*  
by Ron Bodin

*The St. Joseph Altar Tradition of Louisiana*  
by Ethelyn Orso

*The Heel-Street Gang and the Birth of Reform: Stories of Angola*  
by Anne Butler and C. Murray Henderson

# ACCOUNTS OF ELECTIONEERING AND OF VOTE BUYING IN VERMILION PARISH IN THE 1930s and 1940s

By Ron Bodin

Politics have been popular sport in Vermilion Parish for as long as informants can remember. No matter what the election--whether for police juror, for sheriff, for governor, for congress--big and small elections alike in Vermilion Parish (with the exception of presidential elections) seem to have been treated as sport. The analogy with games appears appropriate for in the 1930s and the 1940s, by all accounts, the game of electioneering was one characterized by parochial loyalties, complex strategy sessions conducted in smoke-filled "huddles" and enthusiasm both from the candidates (the on-field players) and from the extended campaign team (a group akin to boosters, the gung-ho fans in the bleachers--the twelfth player on the football team).

But to understand the game of politics played in the cities, towns, and country communities in the parish, one should know a little about each team and about the rules by which the game was played.

THE PLAYERS. Political (team) captains in Vermilion Parish were often those with money, influence and a burning love for politics. Almost always male, and often businessmen (some were bar owners, some were merchants, some were successful farmers), these political activists put up the money that allowed an election campaign to proceed. At times these businessmen-captains chose to run for elected office themselves. More often though they "passed the ball" to someone else--someone whom they "trusted"--someone whom they could control, and "ran" that person for office. The captain and his wide receiver--his candidate made for a small team unable to spread their message to the citizenry, and so others were needed to make for a successful campaign. And it was not difficult to recruit others since politics was much loved in the area--people had definite ideas as to government or had loyalties to one team (member) or the other.

## THE TEAMS.

In Vermilion Parish one party Democratic rule was the order of the day. That did not mean that there was no competition for office holding. Since Huey Long's rise to power in the 1920s the parish had been divided between those loyal to Long and his operation, *Le Machines*--local participants in the Long political machine, and those opposed to Long, *Le Home Rule*.

Although there was significant support for Long in Vermilion Parish (many residents appreciating the creation of his welfare state--and the roads, the hospitals, the state services that followed) when it came to local politics, even a number of Huey Long supporters opposed the methods of his local operatives and his machine politics.

Home rulers, such as Cousin Dudley Leblanc, opposed Long and helped foster an organized opposition to him on a local level.

Each of the two teams (the two factions of the Democratic Party) enlisted large numbers of campaign workers. These "political" teams were professional for they relied not so much on volunteers as on paid hirelings to carry out a successful campaign. The candidate and his "patron" could not be expected to do the campaign's dirty work. That was left to team players. Some of the players functioned as co-captains of sorts. They organized their precincts and supervised their little team of mercenaries.

One of the co-captain's primary responsibilities was to make effective use of the money provided by the campaign. That often meant enlisting workers for the campaign who could assist

the candidate. Other campaign workers had entree into their communities and were congenial, back-slapper types and worked to deliver their "clienteles." Finally, campaign workers were also valued for their ability to get out the vote on election day.

A few workers were known as "enforcers." A large Abbeville woman devoted to Home Rule candidates openly boasted of taking the "unconverted" for a ride in her pick-up truck when all other campaign worker efforts had failed and "talked" some sense into the recalcitrant. If that did not work, she was known to open the passenger-side door of the pick-up while the vehicle was traveling down a straightaway, and toss the "hard-headed" out of the truck. Soon her presence was felt by word-of-mouth accounts and often all that was needed was a threat of a ride with "Pamela" to convert the voter into seeing things in a perspective more acceptable to the campaign.

Workers who could "deliver" were rewarded. Winners were provided not with trophies--though they were provided trophies of sorts--jobs, cash, political entree, etc.

#### CAMPAIGN PREPARATIONS.

Getting ready for the big game was an expensive proposition. Those faint-of-heart or penniless were ill-suited for the enterprise. It was no easy matter to enlist the right people who could be trusted to do the campaign's work, and no easy matter to get money into their hands so that the necessary precautions (i.e. vote-buying) could be taken to avoid defeat by default. As precaution against the uncertain, votes, the politician's contended, had to be bought. Payment of five or ten dollars a vote was the rule of thumb. Voting commissioners had to be loyal and that also might require some compensation. The workers needed some inducement to work their magic--money was a fine reward and the more money the campaign could generate and get into the hands of campaign workers, the more loyalty one could expect of the campaign (worker).

Money was channeled from the campaign patron to trusted lieutenants who were judged capable of carrying their precincts or their families, and these co-captains in turn provided money to campaign field workers who did the day-to-day work of "talking up" the candidate and buying the voter's loyalty.

Devotees of both the machine and home-rulers were equally adept at performing these functions.

All the while the candidate helped supervise the election campaign--often staying above the vote buying and other assorted dirty work--concentrating on pressing the flesh--meeting voters. Voters in the area report that personally meeting with the candidate was crucial to their voting decisions. With no television, and even though there were radio announcements and cars outfitted with speakers blasting the candidate's names and the times and places of free meals hosted by the office-seeker, the personal touch was deemed vital by the electorate and the candidate seems to have kept that in mind campaigning door-to-door as election day neared.

#### PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES.

It is important to note that not all of the electorate--not a majority of the voters could be "bought" by local campaigns. Candidates, however, felt compelled to cover all bases and appealed to the more cynical voting element that viewed politics as a way of acquiring a few dollars. Some of these voters were poor and the money was needed to keep body and soul together. Others viewed politics as a money-making opportunity. Some voters needed jobs and realized that in a patronage system voting on the right side--the winning side--meant obtaining employment. Active campaign participants believed a winning cause would mean at least prestige and at most money (sometimes a monthly allowance to keep the campaign efforts going year around by keeping loyalties in tact) and jobs for their efforts.

The campaigning done, last minute votes being bought, the day preceding the election was frantic. In some areas of the parish election eve "parties" were sponsored for special voters--often for alcoholics, the poor and blacks. Conducted in barns and other out-of-the-way places (termed bull-pens), workers rounded up potential male voters and provided them with all the liquor they could consume. The next morning as soon as voting places opened their doors, the "liquored-up" were trooped to the ballot box with pre-marked sample ballots in hand.

This campaign system worked well since many in the parish were illiterate. In fact, most of those whose votes were bought were unschooled and that meant that they would ask for assistance in marking their election ballots and that meant they would "publicly" state their choices as the commissioners pointed out the candidates' names on the ballot. At times election commissioners even marked the ballot for the non-reading, non-writing voter. Some informants recall that there were separate boxes in which to drop marked ballots--one box contained Machine ballots, the other was used to collect Home-Rule ballots. Ostensibly intended to save time in counting, locals saw through the ruse and realized the boxes were meant to keep tabs on who was voting for whom. A number of Vermilion Parish informants recall being told to report to selected voting sites since those were staffed by sympathetic voting officials who would see to it that their ballots were "correctly" marked. Illiteracy assured the campaign of a perverse accountability--workers and paid voters could by these various means be held accountable for their actions.

#### THE BIG DAY.

Election day was equally frantic. Candidates and their workers attempted to stay on top of things and gauge the popular sentiment. Voters who had special entree into their communities were consulted and the campaigns often reported that midway into the election day they had a good feeling for the election's outcome.

That meant that campaign workers had some ability to earn extra money. If all indications pointed to an election defeat, money provided the worker in the losing effort for buying votes, was pocketed (by all levels of workers). If a victory seemed assured, the campaign's war chest--maintained to meet last minute needs and to pay campaign workers who could deliver their family's vote--was also divided and pocketed by campaign officials.

Throughout the day, workers transported voters to the polls in get-out-the-vote efforts and in the evening campaigns gathered to await the election's outcome.

Much depended on the election results. To the winning side went the spoils--to the winners went prestige--to the winners went the advantage of incumbency when this game would once again be played out four years hence--and to the winners (especially to the active participants in the campaign) went some financial rewards--monthly stipends, bonuses for the victorious effort, etc. Some locals report improving the quality of their family's lives via their campaign involvement. Some report making a living from being on the right (the winning side); one Erath barber retired at age thirty five from his early campaign successes.

The losers were not so fortunate. If their candidates had been incumbents and were defeated in the election, government employee's jobs were on the line, and owing to their loyalty to the failed campaign, were soon out of a job.

And woe to the person who "had jumped horses" -- for switching loyalties was viewed with contempt by many in the area. To switch loyalties or even to be seen with high-profile opposition personages could mean that the political "establishment" would turn its back on the candidate or to the elected official, whatever the case, and work for their ouster from influence or from office come the next election.

Machine and Home-Rulers did battle and their playing fields were the voting stations manned by their referees--commissioners loyal to their causes. Party factions won; party factions lost; and the political system suffered in the meantime. Quite a game!



# THE ROUGEON FAMILY OF LOUISIANA

*By Pearl Mary Segura*

The Rougeon family of Louisiana stems from the Rojot family whose roots lie deep in the soil of Irancy, France. The family's history there may be traced back to the year 1300 in what was then the medieval county of Auxerrois, named after Auxerre, the present capital of the Yonne Department in the eastern province of Burgundy. As a result of the Treaty of Arras in 1435, Auxerrois became a part of Burgundy.

Irancy is situated in the northeastern section of central France, in the department of Yonne, arrondissement (subdivision of a department) of Auxerre, and the canton of Coulanges-la Vineuse. It is on the left bank of the Yonne River. In 1962 the population had dwindled to 434 inhabitants from 490 in 1931, 800 in 1926, and 1017 in the early 1870s. The nave of the parish church of St. Germain dates back to the twelfth century and was under construction until the sixteenth century. Its choir loft was reconstructed in 1788. In the year 900 Charles the Simple ceded to the abbatial Church of St. Germain-en-Auxerrois the lands situated in Irancy. Ancient houses are to be found in the village. Vineyards abound in the vicinity and produce the local Chablis red wines. It is the birthplace of Jacques Germain Soufflot (1713-1780), the French architect whose chief claim to fame is the fact that he designed the famous Pantheon in Paris. Among his other works are the theater and Hotel-Dieu in Lyon and the Ecole de Droit in Paris.

In the parish register of Irancy, France, is still to be found today the marriage record of Pierre Rojot and Edmée Chappotin, which marriage took place on Monday, July 29, 1680, during the reign of Louis XIV. Since they were related in the fourth degree, it had been necessary to secure on April 12, 1680, a dispensation from Bishop Andre Colbert of Auxerre. Three banns of marriage had been published on Sunday, July 7; Sunday, July 14; and Sunday, July 21. Present and signing the marriage record were Pierre Rojot, Sr., father of Pierre, Jr.; Germain Boudreaux and Pierre Boudreaux, paternal uncles; Nicolas Rojot, uncle of Pierre, Jr.; Nicholas Chappotin, fiscal attorney and uncle of Edmée Chappotin; Francois Linard, Edmée's cousin; Gabriel Chappotin, also her cousin; Cyr Beau and Jean Rojot.

About the turn of the eighteenth century, Pierre Rojot and Edmée Chappotin had a son named Edmé François. Shortly after began the War of the Spanish Succession (in America called Queen Anne's War). It lasted from 1702 to 1713. By the Treaty of Utrecht, signed on April 11, 1713, Great Britain received Acadia, among other territories. The war had greatly crippled France, leaving the country in a weakened economic condition. Upon Louis XIV's death in 1715, his great-grandson, still a child, succeeded him as Louis XV. A weak king, the national debt greatly increased during his reign.

This was the France Edmé François Rojot found himself in when he reached manhood, and the unstable situation may have prompted his decision to make his fortune in far-off Louisiana, which was then being promoted as the land of opportunity. His parents had married two years before the explorer, René Robert Cavalier de La Salle, had discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River in 1682 and taken possession of all the region drained by the river in the name of France and had named it Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV. Pierre LeMoyne, Sieur d'Iberville, founded the first settlement in 1699, and the French crown turned over a royal grant to Louisiana (1712 to 1717) to Antoine Crozat, a wealthy Frenchman. This financial speculation proved a failure. New Orleans was founded in 1718 (four years later than Natchitoches), the same year that the next promoter, John Law, as head of the new Mississippi Company, or Company of the West (which became known as the Company of the Indies in 1719), was granted practically the same rights, powers and duties originally given to Crozat. His financial and colonizing plans failed in

1720 but the Company of the Indies survived the crash and remained in control of Louisiana until 1732 when the French crown resumed control of the area.

Soon after New Orleans was made the capital of Louisiana, new settlers laid out their plantations along the Mississippi River, both above and below the capital. Some of the plantations were owned by absentee landlords. One of these was the Chauvachas Concession situated on the left or east bank of the Mississippi River, below English Turn, which was seven or eight leagues (21 to 24 miles) from what is now known as the Vieux Carré in New Orleans, but what was then all of New Orleans. It was partly owned by Claude-François Bidal, marquis d'Asfeld, marshal of France, who had a prominent role in the Company of the Indies in Paris as well as in the colonization of Louisiana. Co-owners with him were these three other grantees: Monseigneur Claude LeBlanc, French minister of state; Charles Louis Auguste Fouquet, comte de Belle-Isle, and Gerard Michel de la Jonchere, councillor of the king.

The grant to the Chauvachas Concession or plantation had been distributed to these grantees by the Company of the West (Company of the Indies) on November 18, 1719, along with the Natchez (or Terre Blanche) Concession, over eighty leagues above New Orleans (present-day Natchez, Mississippi), and the Little Desert (Le Petit Desert) Concession, two leagues above New Orleans on the site of the present-day Westwego on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The land was granted free of charge, but the grant carried the obligation of cultivating and improving the land and introducing the labor necessary to this end.

The Chauvachas plantation (named for the Chauvachas Indians who had a settlement there) measured two and a half miles along the Mississippi River (seventy two arpents) and was about a mile and a half in depth (forty arpents)--meadow land of rich soil that sloped from a high point on the river to impenetrable swamps at the opposite end.

The principal crop was indigo and was entirely maintained by the labor of slaves (known as "Pièce d'Inde") brought from Africa by the Company of the Indies. At the time the plantation, according to Henry P. Dart, "must have been only slightly less in importance than the village above it with its high sounding name of New Orleans." It included an extensive accumulation of stores.

On the morning of November 28, 1729, Natchez (Terre Blanche), the largest of the concessions, occupying 280 arpents and devoted to the growing of tobacco, was totally destroyed by fire set by the Natchez Indians, inflamed by alleged ill-treatment by the new military Commandant de Chepart, a Basque stationed at Fort Rosalie. Over 300 inhabitants were slaughtered by the Indians, including the administrator, Aide Major Laurent Desnoyers, second lieutenant and commandant of the town and director of the Terre Blanche Concession. It was pointed out by Dart that "it is said by the owners and the same view is held by the histories of the period, that this establishment founded at Natchez was populated by men and women of French origin who were far above the usual run of immigrants of that period. Among these people were artisans and agriculturists of a class sadly needed then in Louisiana. The Indians made almost a clean sweep and the loss of these white inhabitants not only destroyed the settlement but it shook the colony to its foundations."

No record has yet been found that reveals the date of Edme François Rojot's arrival in Louisiana. But on record in the St. Louis Cathedral Archives in New Orleans is his marriage on April 12, 1730, to Angélique Chartron, native of Dain in Artois, bishopric of St. Omer, daughter of Adrien Chartron and Marianne Vasseur and widow of the late Laurent Desnoyers,--while living he served as major of the Natchez post. The document shows the first known change in the spelling of his name. He is listed as François Rougeau, native of Hyraney (Irancy), diocese of Auxerre, son of Pierre Rougeau and Aimée Chapotin. Typical of early records in Louisiana is the misspelling of his birthplace Hyraney for Irancy and of his mother's given name Aimée for Edmée. Performing the ceremony and recording it was Father Raphael, Capuchin priest, then pastor of the infant

Church of St. Louis. (Laurent De Noyers, Angélique's first husband, was killed by the Indians in the Natchez massacre of November, 28, 1729).

We next find Edme François listed simply as Roujot in the 1731 census of inhabitants along the Mississippi River - as the director of the Chaouachas Concession, approximately on the site of the present-day Dalcour and Bertrandville, which is about twenty-six miles from the heart of New Orleans and eleven miles from present-day Phoenix, the site of Fort de la Boulaye, the first French settlement on the lower Mississippi, built in 1700, abandoned in 1707 but used until 1715. Its chief value was that it gave France control of the Mississippi Valley and connected Canada with the Gulf of Mexico. Listed with Edme François Roujot in the census was his wife, four children (three of whom were her children by her first husband, Major Laurnet Desnoyer, and one, Edme François' first born, a girl name Marie Jeanne, born in 1731, according to the Pointe Coupée census of 1745, at which time she was fourteen years old). Also listed were four workmen and laborers under contract, five men bearing arms, thirty eight negro men and women, twenty four negro boys and girls, four horses, thirty five heads of cattle, and twelve guns. There were no Indian slaves, sheep or goats.

A census of inhabitants of Louisiana above and below New Orleans taken "after 1731" shows "Roujot" living on a standard farm of six arpents, which he had bought from Sieur Arnaud. The farm was on the left (going down) or east bank of the Mississippi, on the same side as the Dasfeld or Chaouachas Concession. In later years it was the fifty-fifth farm listed below New Orleans.

On May 10, 1732 Angélique Geneviève Rougeau was born in "in the province of Louisiana" of François Rougeau and Angélique Chartron. She was baptized in July of that year by Father Hyacinthe. The sponsors included Jean Marie De \_\_\_\_\_ and Marie Babin.

Unfortunately there is a gap in the baptismal records of St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans between 1733 and 1744 and the birthdate of Jean Baptiste Roujot, Marie Jeanne and Angélique's brother, cannot be ascertained. However, a document in the Spanish Judicial Records in the Cabildo indicated that Roujot was forty years old in 1778 and a native of New Orleans. (These records may now be housed in the Louisiana state Museum). This would indicate that he was born about 1738. Presumably the Peirre Roujot to be found in Natchitoches on April 21, 1770 and again on October 27, 1771 is also their brother and may have been born between 1732 and 1738. If there were other children, their names have not yet been brought to light except possibly one, Edme, who signed, with E. F. and J. B. Roujot, the marriage contract of Marie Jeanne Roujot on March 5, 1748, to Daniel Pain, royal storekeeper.

During these years, Edme François Roujot remained as director of the Chaouachas or Dasfeld and Company Concession. On September 17, 1736, there was recorded in the registry of the Superior Council a declaration by François Chastang, inspector of the Concession, that one of his negroes belonging to the Chaouachas Concession, named Sandigue, had run away eight days previously, which information had been given by Sieur Roujot, director of the Concession. It was signed by Chastang and by (Nicolas) Henry, clerk of the Superior Council.

The owners of the Chaouachas Concession, not having realized the revenue from their investment that they had anticipated, finally decided to sell their concession to Charles Favre Daunoy and Joseph Assailly. The records of the Superior Council of Louisiana at the Louisiana state Museum in New Orleans indicate the sale of the Chaouachas Concession whose procuration was signed in Paris on September 10, 1737 and the final sale on January 28, 1738 in New Orleans.

The English translation by Heloise H. Cruzat of the documents is question, which appeared in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, October, 1925, reveals the high positions held by the owners:

Before the Councillors of the king, Notaries of the Chatelet of Paris, undersigned, were present, Most High and Mighty Siegneur My Lord Francois, Bidat, Marquis d'Asfeld,

Marshall of France, Governor General of the fortifications of France, Commander of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis, and Knight of the Golden Fleece, residing at Paris in his hotel, Rue Neuve des Petits Champs, Parish of Saint Roch...

And Messire Gérard Michel de la Jonchère, Councillor of the King in his councils, Commander, Treasurer General of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis, former treasurer General paymaster of the armies, residing at Paris, on Saint Honoré Street, St. Roch Parish, associated in concessions in the Colony of Louisiana in America, granted them by the Company of the Indies, who have voluntarily appointed and constituted as their general and special attorneys in the said Colony Messrs (Jean Baptiste LeMoynes) de Bienville, Governor, and (Edme Gatien de) Salmon, Intendant of the said Colony or one of them in the absence or default of the other, for the purpose of and in their names of passing contract of sale to Sieurs Daunoy and Assailly of the plantations and effects they there own at the price and conditions hereafter mentioned:

1. The sale shall include the plantation of the Chauachas now administered by Sieur Rougeot, as it is and stands, with all the negroes, negresses, small negresses and negroes thereon; the negroes from the Company of the Indies, according to the last information, numbering about one hundred and seven, without, however, in the event of some deaths, the purchasers being able to pretend any reduction in the price as a whole, which will be hereafter stipulated, together with the horses, cattle, tools, utensils and movables and even the tools not actually in use, provisions of all kinds and generally all that may be found on said plantation, and inventory of which shall be taken with Sieur Rougeot, manager at present in charge, copy of which shall remain attached to the record of the contract of sale...the said Sieur Rougeot being responsible to them for same through an individual inventory to be taken...

Sir Rougeot was also treasurer at this time. Included in the sale was that of Little Desert Plantation, property in the City of New Orleans, and the large territory called Terre Blanche Concession granted the owners by the Company of the Indies in 1719 in the neighborhood of Natchez, which the Natchez Indians destroyed in 1729, and which had remained uncultivated since. The final agreement of this document stipulated that:

Finally, it shall be agreed that if the said purchasers do not retain in their service Sieur Rougeot, who is now manager of the Chauachas plantation, and that by the account to be settled with him the vendors are found to owe him some salary, the said purchasers will retain him in their service at least until the vendors will pay him what they owe, if the purchasers do not prefer on dismissing him, to advance same, chargeable to the first payments, and generally empowering Messrs. said attorneys or one of them to promise and obligate in the aforesaid sale all that they may judge proper.

This document was dated and signed in Paris on September 10, 1737. All four sections of the initial inventory of the plantation, held on February 24, 1738, were signed by Edme François Roujot (f. Rujot), who was director, administrator and treasurer of the concession, and by Charles Guy Favre Daunoy and Joseph Assailly, the two purchasers, as well as by the notary, Nicholas Henry. Additional signatures were, in the first section Chavannes; the second and fourth sections, François Chastang; and the second and third sections, Cantrelle.

On October 27, 1739, it was recorded that François Roujot and the Widow Desnoyers, spouse of Roujot, had "received from Messrs. Assailly and Daunoy, proprietors of the Dasfeld land grant, the sum of 1460 livres (cash), in discharge of that land grant's debt to the estate of bygone Sieur Desnoyers."

On April 11, 1740 François petitioned the Superior Council for permission to sell a house on Bourbon Street. This was opposed on May 15, 1740, by Sieur Prévost, agent of the Company, until full payment of Sr. Rujot's debt to the company. There is no indication as to how this was resolved.

From his former managerial position, François went into clerical work in New Orleans. "Rougeau" was listed as clerk and guardian of the storehouse in New Orleans, on an official list of workers in the colony of Louisiana on December 1, 1744. His salary was 800 livres—about \$800.

He witnessed, February 15, 1744, a procuration in blank by Jean François Gautreau, former royal storekeeper in New Orleans, who was about to leave for France, and on March 16, 1744 he witnessed an acknowledgement of indebtedness to Sr. Louis Piot de Launay, Guardian of the King's Store, for delivery of merchandise from the store to François Parent and his wife Arlu.

A marriage contract was signed on January 7, 1745, between "Pierre Ricard, resident of Pointe Coupée, son of deceased Sr. Jean Ricard and of deceased Marie Bayle, a native of Dalleman du dro, Bishopric of Agen, and Delle Marie Louise de Moyere (Des Noyers), minor daughter of deceased "St. Laurent de Moyere," while living, officer of the Marine, and of Dame Angelique Charfran, now wife of Sieur François Roujeot, employee in the office of the warehouse in this colony, a native of the Natchez, Bishopric of Quebec. Signed: Pierre Ricard, Marie L. Desnoyers, E. F. Roujote, J. B. Faucon Dumanoir, desonse Roujot, D'Aunoy, Trenaunay Chanfret, Avignon, Cantrelle, Chantalou, Henry, notary." A minor at this period of Louisiana history was anyone under the age of twenty five years.

The couple resided in Pointe Coupée, and the 1745 census of that post indicates that Jeanne Marie, Edme François' eldest daughter, who was then fourteen years of age was living with her half-sister, Marie Louise Desnoyers, and her brother-in-law, Pierre Ricard.

A year later, on January 14, 1746, Edme François became subrogé tutor to the minor children of deceased Jacques Roquigny and Marie Jolly. On February 5 he signed with others the document confirming the lease of the Roquigny estate for 1550 livres per year, payable every six months for three years.

There is evidence during the fall of 1746 that she and one, Chantalou, had legal differences, not specified, which called for a conference between the parties concerned.

In January 1747 Edmé François, as a parishioner of the Church of St. Louis (now St. Louis Cathedral), became involved in a famous controversy which "raised quite a tempest in the Church and New Orleans."

On the 10th of the month, a petition was presented to Governor Pierre Rigaud marquis de Vaudreuil, and to Mr. Sébastien François Ange Le Normant, commissioner general of the Marine, ordonnateur and first judge of the Superior Council, by Ignace Brutin, royal engineer; Deverges, also engineer; Volant, captain of the Fourth Company of the Swiss Regiment of Karrer; and Debreuil, captain of the militia, to allow them to protest and oppose the church wardens, "praying that they be cited with the Parish Curé and that it be ordered that the pews of the Parish remain at the same price paid until this time, and that the Wardens pay cost damages and interest to whom due."

The wardens and the curé were cited and notices served on the following: Reverend Father Charles, curé of the Parish and superior of the Capuchins; Sr. Darby, former warden; Sieurs Mathurin Dreux and Morisset, wardens; and on Sieurs Tixerant, Morand, Rujot, Rivarde and Miss Millon, bidders on the pews.

On January 14 Father Charles testified that he had published the adjudication of the pews three different times, on the request of the warden in charge, just as he had done two years before with no complaint from the parishioners. This move was necessary because the church was "falling into ruin." The testimony of the wardens was to the same effect.

The abstract of the decision rendered by the governor and the commissioner general on January 21 reads:

Order that the previous bidders of the pews who were deprived of them by this last adjudication, shall keep their pews on paying price of last adjudication, for the present year only, and as the previous adjudications of pews were not preceded by any deliberation nor ruling fixing the date and conditions of the rent of pews, order that in the course of the present year on the day and the hour agreed on between the said Curé and the Wardens, a meeting will be held at the Presbytery of this Parish of the prominent residents to deliberate in the usual manner on the conditions and the time of setting up the said pews at auction on the first Sunday of next year, 1748, the said adjudication not to be in perpetuity but not to be repeated within three years. Costs to be on said Parishioners. The said ordinance to be published at the issue of High Mass and registered on the Registrar of deliberations on demand of Mr. Fleuriat, Procureur General of the King.

The document was signed by Nicholas Henry, clerk of the Superior Council and notary.

In the same year, 1747, Edme François Rougeau was appointed curator of the minor children of François Daspit dit St. Amand, as recorded in a charred, deteriorating document. He was elected curator of Pierre, 22, and Dominique, about 18, when they had petitioned the Superior Council on October 8, 1746, for emancipation and division of the estate of their father, who was killed by the Natchez, and that of their mother, Marie Françoise DuBuisson, who had later married S. Antoine Meullion, surgeon, established at Pointe Coupée. The right of emancipation was granted them on January 30, 1747, and the agreement as to the division of the property was signed on March 29. The final payment of 3300 livres was made on May 9, 1748.

It was the year 1747 that Edme François wrote a letter to his family back in France which is still in existence and which was given to a descendant, Winston DeVille, in October, 1970.

The marriage contract of Jeanne Rougeot, native of New Orleans, a minor daughter of Edme François Rougeot, "employed in the King's warehouses," and of Dame Angélique Chastang (Charatton), and of Daniel Pain, native of \_\_\_\_\_ des Epaux, Bishopric of Xaintes in France, Guardian of the Stores at Natchitoches and son of Daniel Pain and of Marianne \_\_\_\_\_, was signed on March 5, 1748, in New Orleans. Signers of the document included besides the bridal couple: E. F. Roujot; Angélique Chartron; Rivard; Gueydon; M. L. Ricard; Edme Roujot; Brosset; Henry, the narrator.

Edme François Roujot is cited, while a clerk in the king's warehouse, in a suit instituted on August 30, 1748, concerning an exchange of slave negresses between Roujot and Sr. Jean Guesnon Gueydon, chief surgeon of New Orleans. Roujot negotiated the exchange because the slave he owned did not wish to go to Natchitoches and he wished to secure one who would go, for his son-in-law, Daniel Pain, who lived in Natchitoches. The suit was resolved in Roujot's favor on September 7, 1848.

On June 10, 1751, Edme François signed in New Orleans a certificate as to the truth of Charles Guy Favre Daunoy's and Joseph Assailly's claim of ownership of the Petit Desert Plantation.

On June 26, 1753, Sr. Aime (Edme Roujot, employee of the office) was served notice along with other relatives of the minor children of Jacques Dupré and Madeleine Mercier of a family meeting to be held at the request of Jean Baptiste Blaise, as tutor, and Jacques Mathieu, subrogate tutor, for inventory and estimation of the succession with the end in view of selling the property, of dividing the returns thereof, and of investing the money until the minors became of age. The advice of the relatives was homologated on July 7, 1753.

There is recorded on August 15, 1755, the death of one Louis Roujot, a member of Bonnille's Company of Louisiana Troops, in the hospital in New Orleans. This could conceivably be a brother of Jean Baptiste and a son of Edme François. No other references could be found of him.

By 1756, the area now known as the Vieux Carré, which then constituted New Orleans in its entirety had completely filled. This may have caused the sons of Edme François to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

A document enumerating the division of the land of Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, founder of the Natchitoches Post, was signed on March 8, 1758, in Natchitoches, and had Roujot as a witness. This must be Pierre Roujot, a notary, who may have gone to Natchitoches after the marriage on March 5, 1748, of his sister to Daniel Pain, royal storekeeper, subdelegate of finance, officer of the province of Louisiana and judge of the Natchitoches jurisdiction.

Edme François' son, Jean Baptiste Roujot, clerk of court and notary of Mobile and a native of New Orleans, was married on August 14, 1759, in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mobile (now in the state of Alabama) to Marguerite de Mouy, a native of Mobile and the daughter of the late Jean Charles de Mouy and Marie Joséphe Rochon. Jean Baptiste's mother, Angélique Chartron, had by this time passed away. Jean Baptiste signed his name "Roujot."

Jean Charles DeMouy, a militia officer in Louisiana who died in Mobile on November 8, 1752, was a native of Melun, parish of St. Ambroise, France. His father, Denis DeMouy, carried the title of councillor of the king and receiver of taxes of the Election of Melun, or more specifically, Treasurer of the salt granary of the Election of Melun. His mother was Thérèse (Jeanne) de Vendreberg.

Marie Joséphe Rochon, a native of Fort St. Louis, baptized January 10, 1749, in Mobile, was the daughter of Charles Rochon of Montreal, Canada, and of Henriette Calon of Illinois.

A daughter, Marguerite, was born in Mobile on the night of August 31, 1760, to Jean Baptiste Roujot and Marguerite de Mouy. She was baptized the next day at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Her godparents were Pierre Rochon and Isabelle (Elizabeth) de Mouy.

On June 6, 1758, Edmé François, or a son named Edme, signed, with others, the marriage document of Etienne Robert, sieur de la Morandière (ancestor of Dr. Dolores Sandoz) to Marie Anne Soileau, which took place in the Church of St. Francis in Pointe Coupée.

This Edme Roujot was one of the signers of the marriage contract of his friend, Guillaume Lemoine, called Lenormant, and his bride, Marie Magdeleine Cordier, which was passed before the royal notary of Pointe Coupée on May 1, 1762. He is presumed to be the "M" of "Em" or "Aime" Roujot who signed the final agreement of the succession of the late Etienne Decuir as a competent witness on October 27, 1762, in Pointe Coupée, in the obligation by Sieur Valentin Jautard to Sr. Guillaume Lemoine for the hiring of slaves on November 15, 1762, of the discharge by Guillaume Lemoine to Madame Fournau, acting for her husband, Valentin Fournau, for the above obligation on April 26, 1763, and in the exchange of real estate in Pointe Coupée between Jacques Hallays de Verdrot and René Legue called Leveille on December 6, 1762; the marriage contract between Yacinthe Ferret and Agnès Renaudière on January 17, 1763; the marriage contract between Victor Puel called Languedoc and Agnès Fremont on January 27, 1763; and the lease of a tract of land in Pointe Coupée, by Adrienne Houmard, widow of Jean Baptiste Lottière, to Joseph Provost called Collet, for a term of seven years, on April 4, 1763.

Meanwhile, Marie Jeanne, daughter of François Edme and sister of Jean Baptiste, lived in Natchitoches with her husband, David Pain, now guardian of the Spanish king's storehouse and subdelegate of the finance officer of the province of Louisiana and judge of the Natchitoches jurisdiction. The 1766 census indicates that they had two sons and four daughters. The children are Louis, François Daniel, Marie Françoise, Louise and Pélagie. All were natives of the Natchitoches Post. The minor Pélagie's marriage contract was signed on March 12, 1768, with

her groom Jean Barthélémy Charbonnet, merchant of the Natchitoches Post, native of the parish of St. Genez de Thiers in Auvergne, diocese of Clermont-Ferrand, France, son of Claude Charbonnet, merchant, and Marie Cusson. The property of the groom was listed as 3000 livres in specie and that of the bride as 2000 livres.

In 1765, J. B. Roujot, an "old and noted resident" of this colony appeared with others also thus designated, including Dennis Braud, the first printer in Louisiana, in New Orleans before the royal notary of the province of Louisiana. These men testified to the marriage in 1748 in Mobile at the church of Notre Dame of William Marcelin's marriage to Marie Anne Doré and to the birth of their children Marie Anne, J. B., and Mathis.

Throughout the 1760s, 1770s, and 1780s, a "Roujot," who was a notary, signed various documents and marriage contracts in Natchitoches. This was either Pierre Roujot, who may have been a son of Edme François, or Jean Baptiste, both of whom were notaries. Their relationship has not yet been verified. They may have been brothers.

The fact remains that Jean Baptiste had moved to Natchitoches, perhaps to be near his sister, Marie Jeanne (Mrs. Daniel Pain). Numerous references to Jean Baptiste Roujot are to be found in the index to Natchitoches Parish Archives. Apparently the earliest is document no. 612 in 1769 in which he was referred to as the administrator of the succession of one named Bonnatons.

On December 17, 1770, and again on January 21, 1771, a "Roujot" was recorded in Superior Council records as a resident of Natchitoches, when he appeared as a witness in the suit of Georges and Diard versus Chevalier Luis de Bonrepos and Pichard. He also appeared as a witness on July 29, 1771, in proceedings transmitted by the Lieutenant Governor Athanase de Mézières, of the post of the Natchitoches, upon the arrest of some fugitive negroes and concluded in the Tribunal of the Governor General of Louisiana (Luis de Unzaga).

"Roujot of Natchitoches" testified in the suit filed April 11, 1771, by Henreique Voix vs. Mr. Luis DeBlanc. However, his testimony and that of others was never filed.

On October 27, 1771, Pierre Roujot (according to Louis Raphael Nardini--the document simply says "Roujot"), notary of the post of Natchitoches, signed the Treaty with the Taovayas (Texas Indians), which De Mézières had formed. Other signers were Athanase de Mézières, commandant of the Post San Juan Bautista des Natchitoches; Joseph Marie Gonzalez, commandant at Los Adals in lieu of Don Hugo O'Connor, Remi Poissot, lieutenant of the militia of the post; and Juan Joseph Pochecho, of Los Adals. Pierre had been present also when the agreement was made in assembly on April 21, 1770. His home had been used at the command of De Mézières to house the portion of bear's fat and deerskins, with which, for lack of the monetary equivalent, two winesellers had settled their account with the government of the post.

On February 15, 1776, De mézières wrote to the governor of the death of Juan Baptista Roujot. Perhaps he meant Pierre Roujot, because this is in error. In the marriage contract dated December 21, 1776, of Marguerite, his daughter and only child by his first wife Marguerite de Mouy, Jean Baptiste is listed as the retired subdelegate of the *indentant* of Louisiana and former royal storekeeper at the Natchitoches Post, and as being present when the contract was signed. His wife was deceased. Marguerite had been born in Mobile, but her intended husband, François LeDoux, the son of the late Pierre LeDoux and the late Cécile Rondeau, was a native of Pointe Coupée, province of Louisiana, bishopric of Havana. Witnesses for the bride were her father, Jean Baptiste Roujot; Jean Louis Cezaire Borne, captain of the militia; Monsieur le Chevalier Coulon de Villiers; and Demoiselle Elizabeth de Muoy, her maternal aunt. Witnesses for the groom were Joseph Poirier and Bouet Laffitte. The property of the groom was listed as "interest in the inheritance of his parents, which is under the power of Bourdelon, his *beau-frere* and tutor, resident of Pointe Coupée. The property of the bride was listed as "property coming from the inheritance of her mother." Signers of the document were Marguerite Roujot, François LeDoux,



Jn. Bte. Roujot, Elizabeth Demouy, Borme, le Chev. de Villiers, Bouet Lattite, J. Chevalier, F. Doucet, de Mezieres, Nicolas Fournier.

On February 9, 1778, a Roujot once more became involved in the succession of a St. Denis. Jean Baptiste Roujot served as an expert with François LeDoux, François Lioteau, and Joseph Chevalier in the inventory and appraisal of the succession of Antoine Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, son of the founder of Natchitoches, and as witness to various proceedings related to the succession. The locale of the judicial action alternated between Natchitoches and New Orleans and reflected in the former a lack of thorough knowledge of the Spanish judicial system, the Spanish regime having been in effect only a few years. Jean Baptiste Roujot is listed in these proceedings as a native of New Orleans, a widower, and forty years of age.

A *Procès-Verbal* of advice and a report of a meeting of relatives and friends of the minor Marie Jeanne Caron for the election of a tutor and under tutor were signed on February 9, 1778, by "f. Roujot," presumably in New Orleans.

The first mention of Jean Baptiste Roujot in the Opelousas District appears in a complaint signed by him on April 11, 1780, against a mulatto named Duplanty. However, there is evidence that he may have remained in or returned to Natchitoches later than this.

A "Roujot," one of several "notable inhabitants," signed a document on October 23, 1781, in Natchitoches in which Pedro Enrique Demeville stated, through his attorney, that his son-in-law, Louis de Blanc de St. Denis, captain of cavalry of light militia of the Natchitoches Post, wished to file a certification signed by these inhabitants and written by Esteban de Vaugine, commander of Natchitoches (the inhabitants were J. B. Prudhomme, Dupain, Bailliot, Grilite, Laberry, G. Desbanne, Poisse, Bte. Dubois, Badin).

The last of numerous references to Jean Baptiste Roujot in the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse is dated 1786, no. 1906. It concerns the sale of the house and lot by his attorney.

Twenty-two years earlier, on July 7, 1764, Louis Pellerin had petitioned Jean Jacques Blaise D'Abbadie, commander general of the marine and commanding officer for the king in the Province of Louisiana, stating that upon promise he had made to settle the lands of Opelousas and Attakapas, he had decided to make a settlement in the Opelousas quarter and to cultivate the land and was hereby requesting the concession of a prairie. The request was granted. Similar and smaller requests were later granted to others. Notably, the Acadians were allowed to settle in these districts at about this time.

It is not known at exactly what time Jean Baptiste Roujot decided to settle in this area. He is not listed in the 1788 Spanish census of Opelousas, but his son-in-law, François LeDoux, is listed as living in Grand Prairie. It is believed that Jean Baptiste came into the area to be near his daughter, Marguerite, and her children. Those known to have been born in the Opelousas District include Maria Luisa Adélaïde LeDoux, baptized February 2, 1781, married Jacques Fontenot (son of Luis Fontenot and Maria Margarita Doucet); Francisco (François) Ledoux Jr., born October or December 8, 1785, baptized April 3 or 30, 1786; Louise Eugene Ledoux, born October 10, 1786, baptized March 9, 1788; Augustin Ledoux, baptized Tuesday, December 25, 1792. Marguerite Roujot Le Doux was buried here on November 28, 1798.

In the American State Papers, vol. 3, p. 186, no. 15865, this notation is found:

Maria Louise Villettranche, wife of Gaspard Badin, claims ninety-six and fifty six one-hundredths American perches, situated in the village and county of Natchitoches, bounded on the north by land of Berthelemi Shamburg, and on the south and east by streets in said village; claimed under a deed of sale from Jn. Bte. Roujot to Madame Francois Lemaître, passed the 24th March, 1792, before Nicholas Forstall, the Commandant of Opelousas.

The sale of the property seems to have severed Jean Baptiste Roujot's last tie in Natchitoches.

His wife, Marguerite Demouy, having died in Natchitoches ( ? ) before December 1776, Jean Baptiste married for the second time in Opelousas in 1790. During a rare clerical visit in the isolated churchless area, a religious ceremony was performed three years later and recorded in the St. Landry Catholic Church of Opelousas. The record states in Spanish that Juan Baut. Roujot (by this time about 55 years old) of New Orleans, the widower of Margarite Dornuy (Demouy), son of Edmond Francisco Roujot and Angelica \_\_\_\_\_, widow of Chadroux (actually Desnoyers) took as his bride Elizabeth LeDé and Maria Ana Trahan. The document was signed "Jean Bte. Roujot." In spite of the inaccuracies in spelling and names, this is clearly the same Jean Baptiste who married in Mobile and lived in Natchitoches. In later years, the marriage record of their daughter, Geneviève, on January 22, 1815, states that Jean Baptiste was from Mobile and Elizabeth LeDé from Pointe Coupée Parish.

The name of Louis LeDé is found in the *American State Papers*, vol. 3, p. 191, no. 104, in Class no. 3 of the last segment of land claims to be settled. This group comprised "claims founded on requests, approved and sanctioned by the competent Spanish authority, or for lands which may have been surveyed by an authorized Spanish surveyor previous to the change of Government; and which, whether accompanied or not by proof of occupancy, ought, in the opinion of the said Register and Receiver, to be confirmed." His cattle brand was listed in the Brand Register for St. Martin Parish: He apparently died before 1810.

Jean Baptiste Roujot was listed as living in the district de M. Soileau in the land census of the inhabitants of the Opelousas in 1793, living near his son-in-law, François LeDoux.

His son, Caliste, who was born the same year, was baptized on May 4, 1794 and had as godparents Pablo (Paul) LeDé (probably his uncle) and Adelaide LeBonne.

In May 1796, Jean Baptiste was still living in the district of Grande Prairie, next to his son-in-law, François LeDoux. The census of that year records the fact that he had three boys and one girl under the age of fifteen living with him and his wife or one boy or man over the age of fifteen. He had no slaves.

On April 2, 1802, Jean Baptiste Roujot served as a witness to a document concerning the succession of Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot in a *Reconnaissance* involving Jean Baptiste's grand-daughter, Adélaïde LeDoux, daughter of François LeDoux, who had married Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot, now deceased, issue: Zenon Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot. Adélaïde had since married a second time to Jean Joubert.

In 1810 Jean Baptiste is shown as living between Michel Janis and Joaquim Ortega in the Opelousas district and two farms away from Paul LeDé. His known children by his union with Elizabeth (Isabel) LeDé included Juan Bautista (Jean Baptiste), born April 12, 1791; Caliste, born July 22, 1793; Severin, born July 16, 1795; Eufemia, born January 12, 1798; Jean Baptiste, born September 20, 1805 (whose name, according to custom, revived that of the first born, who must have died meanwhile); he married Celeste DeVillie, widow of Jacques Fontenot, on January 18, 1828; Alexandre, listed as being forty to fifty years old in the 1840 census, married Mary Ann Soileau in 1814; Geneviève, who married Louis Lucas dit Lelas Fontenot (son of Joseph Fontenot dit La Rose and Magdelaine Hayse, native of Alabama, resident of St. Landry) on January 22, 1815. The Leon Roujeau (twenty to thirty years old) and Collin Roujeau (thirty to forty years old) listed in the 1830 U. S. census are also believed to be their sons, but no definite proof has been found as yet.

Jean Baptiste Roujot was buried on June 28, 1811, from St. Landry Church. He died at the age of sixty years according to the report. This is in error for he had married his first wife in 1759. The record should have read seventy-three years, if he was forty in 1778 as a February 9, 1778, document indicated.

Alexandre, a brother of Caliste, registered his cattle brand on July 9, 1814.

Caliste Roujeau's brand was registered on September 16, 1816, and that of his brother Jean was registered on August 9, 1822; all were in St. Landry Parish.

The Roujots must have been overlooked, because they do not appear in the 1820 census.

Caliste, Sr., born July 22, 1793, was married on January 14, 1818, to Marie Louise Pitre, baptized October 9, 1796 (the daughter of Francois Pitre, Jr., son of Francois Pitre, Sr., and Marie Louise Thibodeaux), and Eugenia Guillory (daughter of Louis Guillory and Maria Juana Fontenot). Their known children were Caliste, Jr., born 1818, and Francois, born 1820. Francois Pitre, Sr., Marie Louise Pitre's paternal grandfather, was a five foot three inch Acadian who was a member of the Opelousas militia; Louis Guillory, father of Eugénie Guillory, her mother, was a five foot one inch Creole listed in the 1777 and 1778 census of Opelousas as living in Grande Prairie and in the same military lists as Francois Pitre, Sr. The family (with proper genealogical records) is thus eligible for membership in the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1830 and 1840, Caliste, Sr., was listed as living in St. Landry Parish, in Grande Prairie, but the 1850 census finds him established in Rapides Parish in the Hinston region, living between his son Caliste, Jr., and his nephew Severin, Jr., and two farms away from his brother, Severin, who had moved to Rapides Parish from Prairie Mamou sometime before 1840.

Caliste, Sr., was in 1850, fifty-seven years old, with the occupation of farmer. His wife, Kitty, was fifty-one and a twelve year old boy, John Powell, was living in the household.

Caliste, Jr., who had served as a constable prior to 1843 in St. Landry Parish, was in 1850 occupied as a grocer in Rapides Parish. He had married Mary Ann Paul, daughter of Michael Paul and Mary Ann Holloway, on February 2, 1843. Their children were Marie Louise, born about 1846; Henry, born about 1847; Virginia, born about 1849; Octavia, born about 1852; Alfred, born about 1854; Benjamin, born about 1856; Robert, born 1860; Catherine Ann, born about 1863; Lizerne (Lazurie), born 1856; Francis (Frank), born 1867; the twins, Joseph and Josephine, born in November 1869; the twins, Idel and Izel, born 1872. All in all, seven boys and seven girls. In the 1860 census Caliste, Jr., is listed as a farmer of some wealth which had dwindled by 1870 possibly due to his large family and crop reverses as well as the effects of the Civil War in which he had served as a private in the Reserve Corps. He was on the roll of prisoners and was paroled at Alexandria on June 13, 1865.

The dearth of material on the Roujeau family in Rapides Parish is due to the burning of the courthouse records in the fire set by Union forces that had engulfed Alexandria on May 13, 1864. This unfortunate circumstance was compounded by the burning of the St. Francis Xavier Church in Alexandria in 1897 with all its records. This was especially unfortunate because the church included records of the Elmer-Hinston area.

The father-in-law of Caliste, Jr., Michael Paul, a wealthy farmer (born in 1800, died 1870 at Elmer) married at Holloway Prairie Mary Ann Holloway (born 1804, died 1872). Their children were Silanthus, born 1823, a river boat pilot; Michael Jr., born 1825, died 1897, unmarried; Mary Ann, born 1828, died 1893, married Caliste Roujeau, Jr.; Sylvia (Sophia), born 1830, died 1913, married Archibald Smith; Catherine, born about 1833, married William R. Smith; David C., born about 1836, married Elizabeth Smith; Jennet (Nettie), born about 1838, married Henry Everett; Sidney (Sid), born about 1841, married Rev. John Carruth; Amelia Harriet (Aunt Babe), born 1845, died 1924, married first W. H. Clark, second John Garner.

The ancestry of Michael Paul is as yet unclear. It is known that a Martin Peine Paul was listed in the May 4, 1777, Spanish census of Opelousas as being sixty years of age. Possibly he was the son of Jean Paul who was serving in the Opelousas militia on June 8, 1777.

In 1860 we find living with Caliste, Sr., age sixty-seven, his wife Catherine, sixty, Catherine McDaniel, twenty-three, and John Lee, forty-five, a school teacher from Ireland.

Both Caliste, Sr., and his wife are believed to have died between 1860 and 1870. Caliste, Jr., died between 1870 and 1880. His wife, Mary Ann, survived him. The 1880 census of Rapides

Parish shows her as the head of the family. With her were Benjamin, now 22, Robert, Ann, Lazurie (?), Frank, Joseph and Josephine (twins), Idel and Izel (twins).

On December 28, 1882, Benjamin Moise Rougeou (son of Caliste Rougeou, Jr.) who was born in 1857 in Elmer, Rapides Parish, and died in 1953, married Miss John Comelia Davis in the presence of S. Rougeou, J. G. Davis and R. B. Rougeou. Officiating was Mitchel Neal, justice of the peace of the Parish of Rapides. By this marriage he had one son, Clarence Rougeou, who married Constance Abat of Boyce, Louisiana. There was no issue from this marriage. The couple resided in Alexandria in 1846. Following the death of Comelia, Benjamin Moise Rougeou married Emily Rhoda Warner, native of Cheneyville in Rapides Parish. The Warner family was from Lee County, Mississippi. J. R. Moore, justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. To this union was born Benjamin Roy (deceased), Mrs. R. R. Ray (deceased), Clyde Lee (deceased), Mrs. A. M. Grayson of West Monroe, Mrs. C. D. Smith of Lecompte and Miss Ethel Rougeou, who lives on the family farm in Lecompte.

Clyde Lee Rougeou, born on September 22, 1915, at Lamourie, near Lecompte, went to grade school in Lamourie and attended high school in Lecompte. He received his B. A. at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1936, his M. S. from Texas A & M in 1937, and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1949. On August 20, 1940, Clyde married Ruth E. Houston of Park Rapids, Minnesota, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Houston. Their children include: Patricia Eileen, Marie Louise, Benjamin Charles, Clyde Lee Jr., Ruth Ann, Randolph Warner, Carol Jeanne, Elizabeth Antoinette, and Nancy Jo.

Dr. Rougeou's teaching experience included: Instructor at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1937-41; Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota, 1941-42; Assistant Professor, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1941-1943; Associate Professor, USL, 1943-1944; Professor and Head, Department of Dairy Husbandry, USL, 1944-1965; Vice-President, in charge of the New Iberia Center, USL, 1965-1966; Acting President, USL, 1966; President, USL, 1966-1974.

Clyde Lee Rougeou, scion of a long line of Louisianians dating back to the earliest colonial days of New Orleans, Mobile, Natchitoches, the Opelousas Post and the Rapides Post, guided the destiny of the state's fastest growing and largest university under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Education.

Dr. Rougeou died on December 31, 1980, in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was interred in the Lafayette Masonic Cemetery.

Dr. Clyde L. Rougeot  
born September 22, 1915  
died December 31, 1980  
President of the University of Southwestern Louisiana,  
1966-1974



Dr. Clyde Rougeau

Note: Genealogical records of the Roujot, Rougeau, Rougeot family gathered by the author may be found in the Archives of the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

# THE SINKING OF LAKE PEIGNEUR: 1980

An Excerpt from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Geological Pamphlet No. 7, *Observations and Significance of Sinkhole Development at Jefferson Island*  
by Whitney J. Autin

The Jefferson Island salt mine was operated by the Diamond Crystal Salt Co. in the Jefferson Island salt dome. Mining was initiated at the 800-foot level in 1922 by room-and-pillar methods. After the area was mined to a maximum diameter of about 1000 feet, the shaft was deepened to the 1300-foot level, and then a ramp was excavated to the 1500-foot level. Prior to (the 1980) mine accident, an old air shaft situated west of the main shaft had been sealed. A newer air shaft was built to replace the older shaft, which has since subsided beneath Lake Peigneur.

Texaco has the rights to the development of the Jefferson Island oil and gas field, located along the southeastern flank of the Jefferson Island salt dome. At the time of the inundation, Texaco was drilling two exploration wells near the mine, State Lease 124 Lake Peigneur No. 20 and Jefferson Island Salt Mining Co. No. 35. The latter site was approximately 400 feet inland from the lakeshore in a wooded area in the Live Oak Gardens. This tropical garden and commercial nursery extends along the southern perimeter of Lake Peigneur.

## New Well

After months of preliminary planning and preparation for well No. 20, drilling was initiated at 1800 hours on 18 November 1980. There is no record of the drill crew and their supervisors having knowledge that the salt dome might be contacted during drilling or that the mine might be beneath their platform.

The night crew reported for duty at 1800 hours, 19 November. The depth of the hole at that time was 992 feet. At 0440 hours, 20 November, the driller awakened the Texaco drill foreman to report that the drill pipe was stuck and could not be moved vertically or rotated and that circulation had been lost at the depth of 1248 feet. At about 0500 hours, approximately 30 barrels of drilling mud were pumped into the annuls while rotation of the drill string was attempted, but neither mud circulation nor rotation of the drill string was achieved. The crew was baffled by the sudden fluctuation of the hook, load weight indicator. At 0545 hours, the driller stated he heard popping sounds from below the rig. Shortly afterwards, when the drilling rig began to tilt, the foreman ordered the crew to evacuate the rig immediately. The rig overturned at 0725 hours. The top of the derrick, which landed on a barge containing mud tanks and vibrating screens, caused the barge to tilt, and the equipment soon disappeared into the lake. Within three hours of the incident, Lake Peigneur emptied into the rapidly developing sinkhole as the lake waters poured into the newly developing sinkhole. Sixty-eight acres of land along the southeastern shore of the lake slumped below normal lake level.

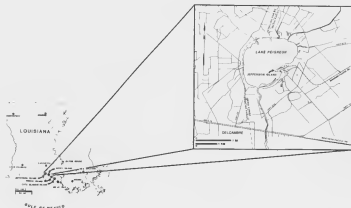
Just before 0700 hours, 48 miners and 3 visitors entered the Jefferson Island salt mine. A few stopped at the 1300-foot level, but most continued down to the 1500-foot working level of the mine. At 0810 hours, the mine's disaster electrician was working on the 1300-foot level when an unusual noise caught his attention. As he looked up, a muddy stream more than two feet deep advanced towards him; the sound he heard was made by the fuel drums striking against each other as they were carried along by the stream. . . The electrician immediately flashed the emergency evacuation signal. Workers on the 1300-foot level phoned the hoistman to lower the elevator cage and also notified the foreman on the 1500-foot level to evacuate the mine immediately. By the time the cage was lowered, the nine workers on the 1300-foot level, standing ankle-deep in muddy water, quickly entered the cage and asked to be raised to the surface. . .

On the 1500-foot level the maintenance foreman drove to several remote areas and picked up four miners who had not seen the flashing evacuation signal. Eventually all of the miners and the three visitors had assembled on the 1300-foot level, where a careful head count showed that all personnel were accounted for. By 0900 hours, all persons who had been in the mine were safe at the surface. The evacuation had succeeded without injury or fatality.

#### Survey of the Damage

The Bayless home, a private residence on the Live Oak Gardens property, had dropped about 20 feet below its former elevation and was tilted at an incline of approximately 4%. The water level in the lake was 40 to 50 feet below normal, and a waterfall poured from the Delcambre Canal into the partially empty sinkhole within the lake. Near the Bayless home, several greenhouses belonging to the Live Oak Nursery had been reduced to rubble. Also, several hundred feet of roadway had sloped, and numerous cracks had formed within 30 feet of the new sinkhole.

Conditions slowly returned to normal several days after the disaster. Residents of Jefferson Island evacuated after the accident were allowed to return to their homes on 27 November. By 30 November, all evidence at the mine site--the daily subsidence surveys, visual inspections, elevation measurements, and seismic monitoring data--indicated that the area had stabilized.



Location of the Jefferson Island salt dome and the Five Islands.

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## SETTLEMENT OF ACADIA

A report on the founding of Acadia as it appeared in  
*Le Mercure Francois*, 1608

Translated by *The Magazine of American History*, 1878

We have already reported that the Hollanders continued their voyages in the West Indies and the English in Virginia. As to the French voyagers in New France the Sieur des Monts obtained from the King in this year (1608) a new confirmation of his privilege for the traffic in Beaver skins in New France, in order to enable him better to establish his colonies for the future, and in the month of March he sent three ships, carrying good workmen and their families, to establish Republics there. It will not be out of place to relate when he began his voyage thither.

In the year 1603, the Sieur des Monts having proposed to the King that a settlement should be begun in New France, and that he should not be satisfied with a simple reconnaissance of the country, obtained from his Majesty permission to go thither with the title of Vice-Admiral and with prohibition to all, except those associated with him in the enterprise, to fit out any vessels for the trade in furs or other merchandise for the period of ten years his privilege, that is from the Cap de Raze up to the fortieth degree, including the entire coast of Cadieland and Cap Breton, the Bays of St. Cler, Chaleur, Isle-percée, Gachepeé, Chicahedec, Mesamechl, Lesquemin, Tadousac and Canada river.

The seventh of March in the year 1604, the Sieur des Monts set sail with two ships from Havre de Grace, to begin the aforesaid settlement there and to pass a winter. Arriving after several storms at sea, he established his first settlement in the river of Canada, in the island of St. Croix, where he built a fort, which he armed with cannon and supplied with several wooden houses; others constructed huts for themselves, after the manner of the Savages. In short they cleared the island, and divided some land in the neighborhood, where they sowed again and put everything in the best order possible to pass the winter. However, the Sieur de Poitrincourt, who had accompanied him on this voyage, returned to France with two ships, which carried several bales of Beaver skins and other kinds of fur.

The winter, which is very severe in this country, arriving, these new settlers suffered great inconvenience, first for the want of wood and next for fresh water, having only a single boat in which to pass the great river in search of these things, their boat not being repaired; then it was pitiful; the frosts and snows were so severe that the cider froze in the casks; and wine was only served out certain days of the week; many who drank snow water fell suddenly ill of diseases unknown in Europe, similar to those which had stricken voyagers who had accompanied Jacques Quartier in former times: First their legs swelled, their muscles became shrunken and black, then the disease crept up the thighs and shoulders to the arms and neck; their mouths were covered with a rotten flesh which spread all over and grew afresh between night and morning when they thought to remove it, so that in a short time thirty-six died of it. There were about forty men who were cured when spring returned.

The winter over, the Sieur des Monts refitted the bark to explore other land where settlement might be more healthy than at St. Croix; he coasted along several countries until he reached Mallebarre, but not finding a suitable place he returned to his first settlement, awaiting the arrival of some vessel in which to return to France. While he was in this state the Sieur de Pont Grave arrived from Honfleur with a company of some forty men to succor him; their coming decided them to establish themselves at a part at which the Sieur de Poitrincourt had asked permission of the said Sr. des Monts to settle on his return; which he had called Port Royal and which is in the Bay Francoise.

This determined upon each one takes his lodging; all were transported to a new settlement, which was picked out upon an island opposite to the mouth of the river de l'Esquille; all set to work, some upon the dwellings and others to put the ship in a condition to return to France and to carry such peltries as they had collected. The Sieur des Monts embarked upon his return and left DuPort as his lieutenant with Champdore and Champlain, who labored with such diligence upon their new habitation that when the winter arrived their dwellings were completed.

Winter arriving, the savages of the country assembled together from various places and came to the Port Royal to barter beaver, otter and elk skins and fresh meat. The settlement was a little better situated than that at Island St. Croix, although there were six who died of the same disease as those the year previous.

The sea becoming navigable the Sieur du Pont fitted the bark to explore new lands, but upon his voyage the wind drove it upon the rocks where it was lost; those on board were saved; this is the reason why no discovery was made this summer and that all that the French could do was to build another bark and a gig to look for some French vessels on the cod fisheries by which to return to France in case the Sieur des Monts should not send any vessel to their relief.

The month of June, 1606, passing and the Sieur du Pont finding that no one arrived from France to replace him, loaded his boat and his sloop with all the peltry he had, left only two Frenchmen in the Port Royal and set sail in search of some Newfoundlanders on the fishing banks (they rarely came nearer to Port Royal than one hundred and fifty leagues) in order to return to France; but he learned on the way that the Sieur de Poirincourt had been seen in a vessel bound to Port Royal; this advice caused his return; it is impossible to express the joy felt by both at their meeting.

Du Pont had built the lodgings at Port Royal, and Poirincourt as soon as he arrived made the first sowings of grain, hemp, flax, turnip, horseradish, cabbages and other crops; Du Pont remaining until the twenty-fifth of August, saw them come out of the ground, then set sail to carry the news to France, with the intention, should he fall in with it on his way, of attacking a Norman vessel which did not belong to their Company, and was trading for skins with the Savages against the prohibition.

As for the Sieur de Poirincourt he busied himself with the bark, during the remainder of the summer and the fall, in the exploration of harbors and of what the land yielded between the fortieth and forty-sixth degree. He first visited the island of St. Croix; thence he returned towards Malebarre and the country of the Smouchiquois, to look up a more convenient place for the settlement than Port Royal; in which voyage he passed ten months and a half before returning to the fort, where he passed the winter and with him all his people, with less diseases than the years preceding, because of their management and good order; notwithstanding four died. He built the first water mill in that country; and the spring arriving he gave orders for the preparation of two barks.

The Company of the Sieur des Monts not being as profitable to his companions as they had hoped, they dissolved it; so that he was forced to send for the Sieur de Poirincourt, who was sorry to have to return to France and abandon entirely the fort of Port Royal to the Savage Membertouts without leaving a single Frenchman behind him. Before leaving he awaited the ripening of all the grains and fruit he had sowed and carried some of them to France, where he arrived toward the end of September, leaving no Frenchman behind him to winter in this country.

There were many causes for the breaking up of the Company of the Sieurs des Monts; among others a Captain La Jeunesse had joined with some Hollanders and carried away all the Beaver skins from the great Canada river, which was greatly to the detriment of the Company; they made enemies also because of the vessels they took; nevertheless this year the King having confirmed the Sieurs des Monts anew in his privileges with the same prohibitions, he sent three ships more and a Colony under the command of Champdore and Champlain; Champdore re-peopled Port Royal and Champlain made a new settlement at Kebec; so the pilots of the vessels which carried them over reported on their return. ---1608.

# MARRIAGES AND DEATHS REPORTED IN THE LAFAYETTE ADVERTISER, 1900-1905

Compiled by *Alvin Y. Bethard*

## Record of Marriages

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Bacque, Jean D. to Guidry, Ella, February 21, 1903, page 1, column 6  
Bailey, Paul to Guilbeau, Stella, January 5, 1901, page 1, column 2  
Barousse, Felix to McBride, Inez, February 16, 1901, page 1, column 4  
Benoit, Alex, to Boudreaux, Ocatavie, September 23, 1903, page 4, column 1  
Bernard, Claude to Landry, Angele, July 26, 1905, page 4, column 3 and August 16, 1905, page 5 column 5  
Bernard, Dupre, to Barras, Malvina, February 2, 1901, page 1, column 1  
Billeaud, M. to Guidry, Mrs. Antoine, September 30, 1903, page 1, column 1  
Blakesley, Horace to Fisher, Hattie, February 17, 1904, page 5, column 3  
Block, Walter Bailey to Francez, Graziella, January 26, 1901, page 1, column 6  
Bonin, Arthur to Broussard, Maria, February 17, 1904, page 5, column 3  
Bourc, Alcee to Delhomme, Edmonia, November 14, 1900, page 1, column 1  
Breaux, Frank to Sibille, Julie, February 26, 1903, page 1, column 6  
Breaux, Ludeon to Patin, Daisy, September, 1903, page 1, column 1  
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Broussard, Fermin to Floyd, Mrs. Ben, September 14, 1901, page 4, column 2  
Broussard, Frank E. to Dauterive, Mabel, December 7, 1904, page 5, column 2 and December 28, 1904, page 1, column 3  
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Chase, Edward to Mudd, Clyde, November 4, 1903, page 8, column 3  
Chicot (or Chico) Leonard to Suarez, Clara, January 27, 1900, page 1, column 5 and February 24, 1900, page 1, column 4  
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Clesi, N. J. to Price, Victoria, September 6, 1902, page 4, column 2  
Comeaux, Aristide to Young, Rena, February 10, 1904, page 5, column 5  
Comeaux, Dr. K. to Labbe, D., February 28, 1903, page 4, column 1  
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Crank, Harry G. to Elliott, Charity M., March 22, 1905, page 1, column 3  
Creighton, John to Rabb, Ora, March 16, 1901, page 1, column 3  
Crooker, Arthur to Lindsay, Medora, November 4, 1903, page 8, column 3  
Darby, Olivier F. and Walet, Lella, January 11, 1902, page 4, column 2  
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Delhomme, Rene to Gerac, Helen, March 1, 1905, page 1, column 4  
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# A LANDRY FAMILY GENEALOGY

Compiled by *Margaret Forster*

## Paternal Ancestors of Elie Leo Landry

1. Rene Landry born 1618 La Chaussess Loudon Vienna Department, France married Perrine Bourg in 1639
2. Pierre Landry born 1658 married Madeline Robichaud in 1682. She was born in 1665.
3. Rene Landry born 1693 in Acadia, died 1765 in France and married Marie Josephe Mius, daughter of Abraham and Marguerite de la Tour
4. Joseph Landry born 1727 in France married Jean Marie Varangue in 1763 in France. She was born in 1732.
5. L'Almable Etienne Landry born 1755 in France married Ursula Pitre in Donaldsonville, La., February 3, 1788. She was born in France in 1762.
6. Elie Landry born 1804 married Anne Rosalie Boudreaux November 9, 1825, in Plattenville, La.
  7. Hermogene (Armogene) Landry born April 23, 1828, in Mermentau, La. married Clara Cecelia Gautreaux, January, 1851, at the Lydia Catholic Church in Patoutville, La. Clara Gautreaux was born in 1833 and died November 29, 1876. Hermogene died September 12, 1920, in Loreauville, age 92 years and 5 months. The couples children included:
    1. Dimitrius Landry, who was 9 as recorded in the 1860 census
    2. Cleophas, born 1854
    3. Veler, born 1856
    4. Arthur, born 1858
    5. Leonie, born 1865
    6. Elie Leo Landry, born 1867
    7. Oscar, born 1869
    8. Albert, born 1870
    9. Belisaire, born 1871
    10. Rudolph, born 1873
- Married no. 2, Hersilie Broussard born 1849 and had three children:
  11. Avit Abie Landry, born 1878
  12. Elda, born 1879
  13. Linda, born 1881
- Married no. 3, Marie Bellot on January 7, 1889. The couple had four children:
  14. Bernadette, born 1892
  15. Amaroque, born 1895
  16. Talton, born 1897
  17. Edgar, born ?

8. Elie Leo Landry married November 5, 1887, Alice Albertine Verret, the daughter of Numa Augustine Verret and Josephine Annette Theriot. Their children:
  1. Lozan (1889-1969) who married Henriette Curry
  2. Annette Marie Landry (1892-1982) married Adam Tony Dumesnil
  3. Arzelie Madeline Landry (1894-1913) married Wm. Henry Burch
  4. Alida Eunice Landry (1896-1957) married Wm. Arthur Forster
  5. Luzan John Landry (1892-1982) married Julia Jos. Meyers
  6. Rosalie Eve Landry (1900-1978) married Don A. Greig, Sr.
  7. Ulysses Simon Landry ((1903-1959) married Lillian Sanders
  8. Fedora Agatha Landry (1906- ) married Nathan Hoffpaul

9. Alonzo St. Anthony Landry (1909-1981) married Cecelia Broussard
10. Elsie Antoinette Landry (1911-1986) married Hance Vernon Meyers

#### Maternal Ancestors of Elie Leo Landry

1. Francois Gauterot born 1613 at Martraiz, France--arrived in Acadia about 1636 and married Edmee LeJeune who was born in France
2. Charles Gauterot, Sr., born 1661 in Port Royal, Acadia married Francoise Rimbault who was one-half MicMac Indian, the daughter of Rene Rimbault and Anne Marie (Metisse)
3. Charles Gauterot born 1691 in Grand Pre, Acadia married Madeline Blanchard May 17, 1712. She was born 1692 in Port Royal and died October 30, 1759, in Boulange, France
4. Joseph Gauterot born 1723 in Acadia, died in Plattenville, La., married Anna Pitre November 24, 1764. She was born in 1737
5. Joseph Marin Gautreaux born November 13, 1769 St. Sullac, France, died June 29, 1847, in Thibodaux, La., married Maria Magdalena Theriot February 9, 1793 at Plattenville, La. She was born 1755 in Bristol, England and died May 7, 1859, Chacahoula, La. She was the widow of Firmin Thibodeaux and had three children by him:
  1. Anna Pauline Gautreaux born 1793
  2. Joseph Olivier Gautreaux born 1795
  3. Charles Gautreaux born 1793
6. Joseph Olivier Gautreaux born October 27, 1795 Assumption Parish, La. married Scholastique Rosalie E. Pelthier who was baptized October 14, 1798; their children include:
  1. Philomene Elcida Gautreaux born 1836, died 1891 in New Orleans, married Michael Valfroid Bergeron
  2. Clara Cecelia Gautreaux born 1833, died 1876, married in Lydia, La. Hermogene (Armogene) Landry; the couple had 10 children: Dimitrius, Cleophas, Veller, Arthur, Leonie, Elie Leo, Oscar, Albert, Belisaire, Rudolph; with wife no. 2 Landry fathered Avit-Abie, Elda, and Linda; with wife no. 3, Landry fathered Bernadette, Amarope, Talton and Edgar.

#### Descendants of Alice Albertine Verret and Elie Leo Landry

- I. Lawrence Patrick Landry born 1909, died 1986, married first Lottie Welch. She had three children from a previous marriage. Married second to Ruby Doiron and the couple had one son, Emanuel Avin Landry who married Betty Darlene Allen and the couple had two children: Daphne Darlene Landry born 1977 and Darin Derek Landry born 1981
- II. Edith Ellen Landry born 1911, died 1943, married Edward J. Leonard, Sr., and the couple had three children: Edward, Jr. born 1931, Michael L. born 1933, and Amos Patrick born 1943.
- III. Mildred Gertrude Landry born 1915, died 1965, married Bouvay John Vaughn in 1929 and the couple had five children: Rosella Theresa Vaughn born 1931, Albert Joseph Vaughn born 1935, Elsie Marie Vaughn, born 1936, Rita Mae Vaughn born 1943, and Joyce Ann Vaughn born 1949
- IV. Stephen Joseph Landry born 1917, died 1986, married Sadie Margaret Budd and the couple parented thirteen children: Stephen Joseph Landry, Jr., born 1937, Sadie Mae Landry born 1938, Gertrude Teresa Landry born 1940, Floyd John Landry born 1941, Daniel Gene Landry born 1942, Dewey Patrick Landry born 1944, Harold Anthony Landry born 1946, Ray Douglas Landry born 1947, Elaine Ann Landry born 1949, Barnabas Abel

Landry born 1952, Ashmer Mark Landry born 1953, James Dale Landry born 1954, and Crystal Mary Landry born 1957

V. Mathilda Mary Landry born 1920, married Louis Andrew Simoneaux. The couple had three children: Earl Andrew Simoneaux born 1936, Leo Joseph Simoneaux born 1939 and Camille Paul Simoneaux born 1943

VI. Betty Ann Landry born 1924, married first Samuel Jess Budd and the couple's four children include: David Joseph Budd, Sr., born 1941, Doris Mae Budd born 1942, Hershel John Budd born 1944, and Gloria Jean Budd born 1945; married second Wilson Horton and their children include: Bobby Dale Horton born 1956, Clark James Horton born 1958, Johnny Horton born 1963 and Kitty Horton born 1966

VII. Viola Mae Landry married Evert Adam Percle and the couple had six children: Charles Adam Percle born 1947, Mona Mary Percle born 1949, Sheila Ann Percle born 1952, Karen Mae Percle born 1954, Sandy Joseph Percle born 1957 and Catherine Marie Percle born 1959

VIII. Henry Paul Landry--a twin--born 1930 married Marguerite Williams and fathered: Henry Paul Landry, Jr. born 1956, Edith Ellen Landry born 1959, Lori Beth Landry born 1966 and Lisa Marie Landry born 1969

IX. Henrietta Cecellie Landry--a twin--born 1930, died 1956 married Arthur Bergeron and had two children: Elgine Anne Bergeron born 1950 and Naomi Ruth Bergeron born 1953

X. Angelique Alice Dumesnil born 1916, died 1976, married Evano Joseph Perera and had two children: Pamela Marie Perera born 1938, Evano Joseph Perera, Jr., born 1943

XI. Leo Francis Dumesnil born 1918, died 1986, married Jean Breaux and adopted Michael Anthony Dumesnil in 1950

XII. June Jeanette Burch born 1911 had one child by her third husband, Jesse W. Coker, a girl, Sandra Lee Coker, born in 1952

XIII. Alice Arzelie Burch born 1913 married William Alvis McQueen and the couple had no children

XIV. John Arthur Forster born 1916, married Annie Laurie Hunt and the couple had one child, Adrienne Lynn Forster, born 1945

XV. Eunice Rosa Forster born 1918 married Chester Henry Lusk, Sr. and the couple had four children: Ida Beatrice Lusk born 1944, died 1987, Chester Henry Lusk, Jr., born 1946, Margaret Sharon Lusk born 1947, and Michael Alan Lusk born 1951

XVI. Margaret Agatha Forster born 1921 never married and had no children

XVII. Alida Madeline Forster born 1923, died 1938, never married and had no children

XVIII. Marietta Vera Forster born 1925, married Wink Frank Miller, Sr. and the couple had four children: Gwendolyn Sue Miller born 1946, Patricia Marie Miller born 1947, Wink Frank Miller, Jr. born 1956 and George William Miller born 1958

XIX. Joseph Landry Forster born 1927, died 1984, married Neva Grace Faught and the couple had three children: Margaret Gayle Forster born 1955, Joseph Lane Forster born 1960, and Ellen Marie Forster born 1962

XX. Harry Duke Forster born 1929, died 1930

XXI. George John Landry born 1945, married Eva \_\_\_\_\_ and had one child, Charlotte Jean Landry, born 1945

XXII. Madeline Julia Landry born 1922, married Thomas A. Binning and the couple had three children: Julia Ann Benning born 1938, Thomas George Benning born 1943 and Gloria Mae Binning born 1944, died 1980

XXIII. Melissa Alice Greig born 1918, married Ernest Ray Ashurst and had three children: Sandra Faye Ashurst born 1939, Melissa Ann Ashurst born 1941 and Ernest Don Ashurst born 1943

XXIV. Don Antoline Greig born 1921, died 1922

XXV. Rowena Helen Greig born 1927, died as an infant

XXVI. Eugene Gordon Hoffpauir born 1927, married Lillian Maraist and the couple had one child, William Daniel Hoffpauir

XXVII. Walden Elias "Sleepy" Hoffpauir born 1931; he had one daughter, Tammy Lee Hoffpauir, born 1937

XXVIII. Mary Ann Landry born 1937, married Richard Earl Tauzin and the couple had four children: Jodi Tauzin, Judie Lee Tauzin, Troy Richard Tauzin and Todd Anthony Tauzin

XXIX. Cecelia Judith Landry, married Donald Bazer and had one child, Toni Elizabeth Bazer

XXX. Thaddeus Daniel Landry born 1942, married Linda Lopez and the couple had five children: Laurie Lorraine Landry, Tina Marie Landry, Kimberly Ann Landry, Jessica Landry and Monica Leigh Landry

XXXI. Michael Jude Landry born 1943, married Coralie Aymond and had two children: Courtney Gail Landry and Scott Michael Landry

XXXII. Bernadette Joan Landry born 1947, married \_\_\_\_\_ Boudreaux and the couple had two children: Kristine Renee Boudreaux and Donald Paul Boudreaux

XXXIII. Velma Jean Myers born 1931, married Milton Robichaux. The couple had four children: Renee Marie Robichaux, Milton Joseph Robichaux, Denise Diane Robichaux and Jeanne Annette Robichaux

XXXIV. Hance Vernon Myers, Jr., born 1937, married Barbara Wurziow and the couple had two children: Hance Vernon Myers III and Jeanne Michelle Myers

XXXV. Ronald Landry Myers born 1946, died 1981, not married and had no children

If anyone has additions or corrections, please send them to Margaret Forster, 3623 Blue Bonnet Blvd., Houston, Texas 77025-1303

# WILLIAM A. MONTGOMERY OF LOUDAN PLANTATION: PIONEER LAFAYETTE CIVIC LEADER

*By Ron Bodin*

William A. "Uncle Bill" Montgomery, born April 22, 1882, on the Loudan Plantation in Lafayette Parish, was the son of Samuel J. Montgomery and Anna Breaux.

A graduate of the New Orleans College of Pharmacy, Montgomery married Flossie E. Shackford on December 2, 1911, and the couple parented four children: William A. Jr. (b. 1915), Ben J. (b. 1918), Samuel (b. 1926), and Flossie (b. 1927).

## Businessman. Politician. Civic Leader. Dedicated Father.

William A. "Uncle Bill" Montgomery could often be seen seated at the window of his Jefferson Street drug store smoking a cigar and looking out onto Lafayette's main street.

Passers-by waved at "Nonc Bill" or stopped in for a few words discussing health matters, government, politics, education and business. Well-read, Montgomery could discuss any of these diverse topics. And Montgomery's accomplishments in many fields of endeavor still stand as a lasting testimonial to this multi-talented native of the Attakapas region.

Considering the range of his interests and accomplishments it is no surprise that Montgomery's children recall their father as both a bigger-than-life character who could be abrupt at times--insisting on keeping his focus on the business at hand, and a father fiercely devoted to his family.

Towards the end of his eventful life, approached to run for governor, this "giant" on the Lafayette political scene declined the honor in part because of his failing health, but primarily due to his stubborn devotion to family and his unwillingness to uproot his wife and four children from their Lafayette home even for the sake of high elected office.

That devotion to values by all accounts characterized the life and deeds of this remarkable Lafayette native--one of Lafayette's movers and shakers--a man often referred to by his contemporaries as one of Lafayette's own "four horsemen."

With some amusement informants recall that then Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, chairman of the President's special flood relief committee, visited the state inspecting damage caused by the flood of 1927. Touring Lafayette, Hoover dropped by Montgomery's place of business (a center for local political activity) around noontime and expected V. I. P. treatment. Observers wondered if Hoover's notoriety would awe "Uncle Bill." Montgomery, all-business, told that Hoover expected a meal, ordered a couple of burgers from a café located across the street from his pharmacy and served that to a perplexed Herbert Hoover and proceeded with discussing the business at hand of flood disaster relief.

Owner of the Owl Drug Store in Lafayette William Montgomery, a pharmacist, possessed it is reported, both the common touch--understanding the concerns of the average citizen and a vision of things as they could be that soared far above life's mundane concerns. In the process, Montgomery seems to have gained a constantly evolving and expanding perspective on life as he aimed at better understanding life's "big picture."

The devotion to things bigger than self may in part explain Mr. Montgomery's entry into the political and public service arenas. Elected to the Lafayette City Council in 1908 (at the age of 26) Montgomery led the move to bring the city into the twentieth-century tightening tor paved streets that would make the thriving community more attractive to business and assist in further developing the city as a hub for commerce and industry; even as a young man Montgomery envisioned what Lafayette could one day become.

Elected to the Louisiana legislature in 1936, Montgomery served as a state representative until 1940. During the span of those four short years, William A. Montgomery was instrumental in

locating a branch of the Louisiana Charity Hospital in Lafayette. Realizing the pressing need for health care to serve the impoverished masses during the height of the Great Depression, his assistance in establishing the Lafayette Charity Hospital provided invaluable service to thousands of residents in South Central Louisiana unable to obtain needed medical care elsewhere. However, Montgomery realized that Louisiana needed more than roads and hospitals to thrust the state into the twentieth century.

Montgomery preached the virtues of public education to all he came in contact with. Throughout his adult life, William A. Montgomery encouraged students to continue their studies past the high school level. In his public life, Montgomery battled for increased appropriations for education, and in his personal life he inspired youngsters to better themselves via education. Accounts of numerous young people encouraged to study and to seek every available educational opportunity are told by William A. Montgomery's daughter, Flossie.

During Mr. Montgomery's tenure on the state board of education, a great number of improvements to the S. L. I. campus materialized. Some of these developments included:

#### Construction

A. W. Bittle Student Center  
Evangeline Hall  
Women's Gym  
McCullough Hall  
Burke Hall  
Broussard Hall

T. H. Harris Hall  
S. L. I. Hall  
Edwin Lewis Stephen's Library  
Mouton Hall  
O. K. Allen Dining Hall

and state purchase of the Whittington farm land to house the S.L.I. farms

As state representative, Montgomery spearheaded the move to allocate some three million dollars to Southwestern Louisiana Institute (S. L. I.) for much needed capital improvements. With this allotment, S. L. I. continued its steady growth and ultimately developed into the University of Southwestern Louisiana (U. S. L.)--the state's second largest institution of higher learning--currently enrolling some 16,000 students at its Lafayette, Louisiana campus. Grateful for the assistance, U. S. L. named its new Chemistry building in William Montgomery's honor during dedication ceremonies in April, 1953.

Montgomery's civic and governmental accomplishments are legion. Tireless, he served on the Lafayette City Council from 1908 to 1920; he was president of the Lafayette Parish Police Jury from 1920 to 1924; he was elected to the Louisiana legislature and served one term in Baton Rouge. An ardent supporter of public education, Montgomery also served on the Louisiana State Board of Education from 1931 to 1940.

Active in civic and community affairs, William Montgomery served as an active member of the Louisiana Homestead League, the United States Building and Loan League, the Lafayette Building Association, and was a driving force and founding member of both the Louisiana and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce. He was also a member of the Rotary Club; a member of the Masonic order and chairman of the Lafayette Zoning Commission.

Remembered for his wit and hard-nosed, no-nonsense approach to business and government, Montgomery helped shape Lafayette as we know it; he was indeed one of the Attakapas region's brightest stars.

For many years a fixture on Lafayette's business, civic, and political scene, William A. Montgomery often sat in his favorite rocker at the post office side window of his Owl Drug Store and looked out at the community he helped shape. It was as though "Uncle Bill" as he was known to friends, stood in his business' showcase as a kind of lighthouse--a beacon looking into Lafayette's future guiding citizens to a vision of a new Lafayette--a towering and shining symbol of constancy--a bridge spanning Lafayette's past, present, and future. When not at his Jefferson Street command post, Montgomery was missed; Lafayette did not seem the same without his presence watching over the community that he dedicated his life's efforts to improving.

William A. Montgomery, community leader, proud Democrat, devoted husband and father, died on March 2, 1949; his remains are interred in the Lafayette Protestant Cemetery.



Remarks made by Parrish Fuller at the Montgomery Hall dedication ceremonies, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, April 17, 1953

...This simple, self-made man, known to a wide circle of friends as Bill or Mr. Bill, son of prominent Louisiana pioneers, worked his way up by himself becoming president of a successful financial institution, member of the state board of education, legislator, lover of flowers, and an authority on Camellias. He sought to widen educational opportunities at higher levels for the boys and girls of South Louisiana whose economic level was low. With his assistance, the self-help program for which Southwestern Louisiana became well known was initiated. Hundreds of worthy boys were able to secure an education by rendering services in return thereof. He led the move to purchase for the college the land on which the present extensive farm program is carried out. Because of the sweetness of his nature, and the extensive range of friends, his real worth is measured in the hearts and minds of those he befriended, and in the love and deep affection of his associates in all circles. His worth should be measured in terms of the good he meant to his community and his untiring efforts in behalf of the beautiful, the true and the good. The breadth and depth of his character gave a rich and gratifying experience to those who knew him best, and crowning it all was a native dignity and a saving sense of humor....



William A. Montgomery  
1882-1949



Montgomery, his wife Flossie, and the couple's first child, William, Jr., born in 1915



The S. L. I. band marching past Montgomery's Owl Drug Store located on Jefferson Street



The Montgomery family at Loudan Plantation. "Grandpa" Samuel Montgomery is standing third from the left. William A. Montgomery is standing second from the right.

# LAFAYETTE PARISH CASUALTIES FROM WWI, WWII AND KOREA

Compiled by *Ron Bodin*

## World War I, Killed or Died in Service

Isadore Alpha  
Leon Chester Breaux  
Gustave Celestine  
Sully Bourque  
Angelas Broussard  
Jean B. Broussard  
Joseph Francois  
Cleophas Foreman  
Willie Gritlin  
Louis Guidry  
August Hebert  
Edwin A. Hoffpauir  
Eli Malveaux  
Louis Stanley Martin

Reuben Broussard  
Ernest Burke  
Rhul W. Burleigh  
Sidney Campbell  
Alexander M. Cockerell  
Leonard Demas  
John Mathews  
Kentroy Nichols  
Noah Savoy  
Ulysse R. Servat  
George Smith  
Abel Claude Trahan  
Sidney Whitmeyer

## World War II Casualties

Killed in action, Died of wounds, Died of Injuries, Missing persons:

Wilson Preston Arnaune  
Curley Babineaux  
Dave H. Bailey, Jr.  
Curman J. Begnaud  
Adley V. Benoit  
Clement Bernard  
James W. Bernard  
Lee Roy Bernard  
John L. Bernard  
A. B. John Boudreaux  
Robert J. Boudreaux, Jr.  
Antoine Breaux  
Bennet J. Breaux  
Lawrence Breaux  
Rene Breaux  
Shirley Broussard  
Albert B. Cantrelle  
Sam E. Carothers  
Alexander P. Choplin  
Donald C. Dailey  
Louis Felix Ducrest  
Silas J. Dufrene  
Albert P. Elliott, Jr.  
Elay J. Fong  
Louis P. Flandry  
Alfred E. Gahn  
Jerry W. Goodsell  
Charles E. Guerniere  
Clifford Guidry  
Jerry Maurice Guidry  
Joseph W. Guidry

Pierre Langlinais  
Sidney Gerald Larriviere  
Rixby J. Leblanc  
Woodrow Leblanc  
Andrew Lormand  
Joseph Lormand, Sr.  
Numa E. Martin  
Robert Allen Meaux  
Gauthier Melancon  
Joseph L. Mestayer  
James K. Michot  
Antoine J. Miller  
Merlin J. Miller  
Gussie A. Monte  
Ralph J. Monte  
Cecil W. Morgan  
John Mouton  
Ovey Mouton  
Charles M. Nini  
Louis J. Pellerin  
Weston F. Poche  
Preston L. G. Prejean  
Norman Frederick Randolph  
Sexton Richard  
Touissant L. J. Richard  
Weston Rogers  
Raoul Simon  
Udley J. Simon  
Alton Smith  
Paul L. Smith  
Ewell J. Sonnier

Richard J. Guidry  
 Edgar J. Guilbeaux  
 Harold O. Harrison  
 Ellis John Hebert  
 Clifton J. Himel  
 Clarence J. Himel  
 John E. Hunley  
 Lucien Johnson  
 Gabriel Knight  
 Cyril J. B. Landry  
 Claude J. Landry  
 Wilfred Landry  
 Claude O. Langlinais

Rynette Arthur Spell  
 Richard A. Stayton  
 Leigh E. Stewart  
 Elinor R. Stutes  
 Lee Roy Joseph Stutes  
 Ellsworth J. Thibodeaux  
 Joseph H. Thibodeaux  
 Avers J. Trahan  
 John Trahan  
 Lennest Trahan  
 Octa Trahan  
 Benjamin Voss

#### Died in non-battle:

Nelson Anderson  
 Horace Adkins  
 Alfred J. Benoit  
 Stanley Benoit  
 Louis Boudreaux  
 Nicholas Boutte  
 Rheul P. Broussard  
 Theo Broussard  
 John R. Chaisson  
 Clarence Coleman  
 Francis X. Comeaux  
 Remy Delahoussaye  
 David Deroussel  
 Earl J. Flandry  
 George C. Fonteno  
 Jonas Francis  
 Bryan R. Gilliam

Francis W. Guidroz  
 Olin Guidry  
 Rex W. Hamilton  
 Elie Hebert  
 Lawrence Jacket  
 Ambrose Kilchrist  
 Wilbert W. Loston  
 William A. Moores  
 Caffery Mouton  
 Floyd J. Mouton  
 Jerome E. Mouton  
 Wavard J. Myers  
 Oleus Robichaux  
 Antoine Sinegal  
 Ulysse Sonnier  
 Russell Byrne Voorhies

#### Korean Casualties Killed or Missing in Action

Lifford J. Daigle  
 Edward Broussard, Jr.  
 Raymond J. Comeaux  
 George Broussard  
 Joseph H. Thibodeaux  
 Felix Boudreaux  
 Hayward J. Roy  
 Ernest J. Jacques  
 Raymond Joseph Patin  
 Ralph A. Pecot, Jr.  
 Andrew Benoit  
 Bernard Houston

Charles R. Parkerson  
 John Corcoran  
 Murphy Gabriel  
 Melvin Dugas  
 Moise Melancon, Jr.  
 Clarence J. Jones  
 Ferman Cormier  
 Alex C. Dorsey  
 Percy Allemand  
 Paul E. St. Julien  
 Joseph B. Joe  
 Paul V. Bouchet

From The Lafayette Advertiser, 13 February 1869

## GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN

Submitted by *Al Bethard*

We understand that this distinguished Federal soldier arrived in our city last night. He is traveling for the benefit of his health and is expected to remain here for some time. We are no admirers of Gen. Sherman. We concede to him all the talents of a successful soldier and consider him the only military genius developed on the Federal side during the last war. But at the same time that his military attainments and literary abilities command our respect, there is an indelible stain upon his career that will ever cause his name to be remembered by Southern men as one connected with the most diabolical acts of cruelty and oppression that a people ever endured.

His "march to the sea" will go down to history as one celebrated for its grandeur of conception, boldness of execution, but barbarous in design and terrible in its effects. In vandalism and wantonness it is without parallel in the annals of history. The tears and supplications of lone and defenseless women appealed to Gen. Sherman in vain. The suffering and wailing of young children fleeing from the flames that enveloped the dwellings of their absent soldier fathers found no sympathy in the heart of this officer. By his orders the fairest portion of our country was given over to the soldiers for fire and destruction, rapine and plunder. On all sides his march gave evidence of its blighting and inhuman character, and every living being along its line has deeply inscribed upon his memory the name of Gen. W. T. Sherman. He will live in the memory of all Southern people, but he will never share their honor, their esteem and their gratitude as do his brother officers, the brave, the generous and magnanimous Hancock and Rousseau. Soldiers in the army, battling for the same cause, opposed by the same people, yet how different the warfare, how different the spirit! We, who have felt the ferocious cruelty of the one and the kindness of the others, know how to appreciate and pay homage to true moral greatness. With Butler and Sheridan our people will class Sherman. But with true Christian spirit we say let "dead past bury it's dead."--Bulletin

## Mayors of Lafayette, 1869-1936

From 1836 to 1869 Vermilionville had no mayor, only a presiding officer elected by the five member council. The Charter of 1869 provided for a council of seven and an elective mayor. There is no record that the Secretary of State issued commissions until 1885.

Name	Years Served	Name	Commissioned
Alphonse Neveu	1869-1870	William Campbell	May 10, 1899
W. O. Smith	1870-1871	Charles D. Caffery	May 29, 1900
William Brandt	1871-1872	Charles O. Mouton	May 4, 1905
W. O. Sonnier	1872-1873	Dr. G. A. Martin	May 13, 1909
Auguste Monnier	1873-1875	Dr. A. R. Trahan	May 12, 1911
John O. Mouton	1875-1876	Dr. G. A. Martin	May 16, 1913
G. C. Salles	1876-1877	Robert L. Mouton	May 5, 1919
John O. Mouton	1877-1879	J. Gilbert St. Julien	May 12, 1927
John Clegg	1879-1881	Robert L. Mouton	May 14, 1931
M. P. Young	1881-1884	J. Maxime Roy	May 14, 1936

# AMAND BROUSSARD DIT BEAUSOLEIL GENEALOGY

*By Pearl Mary Segura*

The following genealogy of Amand Broussard dit Beausoleil will serve as a basis for tracing the lines of his twelve children. His descendants may wish to prove their relationship to the builder of the Amand Broussard house which on June 9, 1980, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally located on Bayou Teche in Loreauville, Louisiana, the house was bought in 1977 by Dr. Roy Boucvalt, who had it moved to the grounds of Mintmere Plantation in New Iberia. Recently, in 1989, Dr. Boucvalt donated the house to the Vermillionville Project in Lafayette's Beaver Park, to which location it was moved for inclusion in the emerging tourist attraction. Photographs of the house may be found in an article on Amand in the *Atakapas Gazette*, volume XVIII, no. 4, Winter, 1983.

## Genealogy

- I. Jean-Francois Brossard, born 1654, arrived in Acadia from France about 1671; married about 1681 Catherine Richard daughter of Michel Richard and Madeleine Blanchard. The couple's children include:
  - A. Marie Brossard, born 1682; married René Doucet dit Laverdure, son of Pierre Laverdure and Henriette Pelletret
  - B. Madeleine Brossard, born 1683; married Pierre Landry of Pisiquit, son of René Landry and Marie Bernard
  - C. Pierre Brossard, born 1684; married January 14, 1709, at Port Royal Marguerite Bourg, daughter of Abraham Bourg and Marie Brun. The couple had seven children:
    1. Marguerite Brossard, born 1709; married Nicolas Prejean, son of Jean Prejean and Andree Savoie
    2. Jean Brossard, born 1711
    3. Joseph Brossard, born 1713; settled in Pisiquit
    4. Madeleine, born 1715
    5. François Brossard, born 1716
    6. Marie Brossard, born 1718; married Honoré Prejean, son of Jean Prejean and Andree Savoie
    7. Charles Brossard, born 1720; about 1740 lived in Pisiquit
  - D. Catherine Brossard, born 1686; married 1st Charles Landry, son of René Landry and Marie Bernard; married 2nd Charles Prejean, son of Jean Prejean and Andree Savoie
  - E. François Broussard, born 1692
  - F. Elizabeth Brossard, born 1693; married Pierre Bourg of Petitcoudiac, son of Abraham Bourg and Marie Brun
  - G. Claude Brossard, born 1697; married 1st October 24, 1718, at Port Royal Anne Babin, daughter of Vincent Babin and Anne Terriot of Pisiquit; married 2nd November 11, 1754, at Port Royal Marie Dugas, daughter of Claude Dugas and Françoise Bourgeois, widow of Abraham Bourg. The couple had five children:
    1. Marguerite Brossard, born 1719 at Port Royal
    2. Jean Brossard, born 1727 at Port Royal
    3. Pierre-Paul Brossard, born about 1728 at Port Royal
    4. Firmin Brossard, born about 1730 at Port Royal
    5. Charles Brossard, born 1732 at Port Royal
  - H. Joseph Brossard, born 1701 at Beausoleil; settled at Chipoudy
  - I. Alexandre Brossard, born about 1703 at Beausoleil; settled at Chipoudy



J. Jean-Baptiste Brossard, born 1705; married 1st about 1729 Cecile Babin, daughter of Vincent Babin and Anne Terriot of Pisiquit; married 2nd about 1748 Anne Thébeau, daughter of Louis Thébeau and Jeanne Levron. Children of the first marriage:

1. Firmin Brossard, born 1729
2. Jean-Baptiste Brossard, born 1730
3. Marguerite Brossard, born 1733
4. Madeleine Brossard, born 1735
5. Marie-Elizabeth Brossard, born 1739
6. Anne-Cecile Brossard, born 1742
7. Jean Brossard, born 1744

children of the second marriage:

1. Anne Brossard, born about 1752

II. Joseph Brossard (Broussard) dit Beausoleil, born 1702 at Beausoleil, Acadia; died September 5, 1765 (SM Ch: v. 1, p. 12) at St. Martinville, La; married September 11, 1725, Agnès Thibodeau, born 1706, daughter of Michel Thibodeau and Agnès Dugas. He settled in Chipoudy (Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick, Canada) and in 1765 in Louisiana. He was Commandant of the Acadians at Attakapas. The couple's children include:

- A. Jean-Grégoire Brossard, born 1726 in Chipoudy, Acadia
- B. Victor Brossard, born about 1728 in Chipoudy, Acadia
- C. Raphael Brossard, born 1733 in Chipoudy, Acadia
- D. Timothée Brossard, born 1741 in Chipoudy
- E. Amand Brossard, born about 1745 in Chipoudy
- F. Simon Brossard, born about 1746; married about 1768 Marguerite Blanchard; settled in Attakapas. The couple had seven children:

1. Simon Broussard, born 1771
2. Marguerite Broussard, born 1772
3. Angélique Broussard, born about 1775
4. Alexandre Broussard, born 1776
5. Simon Broussard, born 1780
6. Joseph Broussard, born 1782
7. Isidore Broussard, born 1783

- G. François Broussard, born about 1747; married about 1770 Pelagie Landry; settled in Attakapas. The couple's seven children:

1. Odilon Broussard, born 1771
2. Théophile Broussard, born 1773
3. Jean-Baptiste, born 1776
4. Joseph Broussard, born 1777
5. Isidore Broussard, born about 1778
6. François Broussard, born 1779
7. Pelagie Broussard, born 1782

- H. Claude Broussard, born 1748; married about 1772 Louise Hébert. The couple had fourteen children:

1. Jean-Baptiste, born 1774
2. Appoline Broussard, born about 1775
3. Valéry, born 1776
- Names unknown for fourth, fifth, and sixth children
7. Louis, born 1777
8. Suzanne, born about 1778
9. Alexandre Broussard, born 1779
10. Pelagie, born about 1780
11. Louise, born 1781
12. Isabelle, born about 1782

13. Anastasie, born 1786
14. Victoire, born about 1790

III. Amand Broussard dit Beausoleil, born 1745 in Chipoudy, Acadia; died January 9, 1818, age 64 years (SM Ch. v.4, no. 1157), married 1st May 24, 1775, Helene Landry, married 2nd Anne Benoit, born about 1755, the daughter of Alexis Benoit and Helene Comeaux; died September 19, 1830, age 67 years (SM Ch. v. 4, no. 2082), succession date November 10, 1830 (SM Ch., no. 656). Children of first marriage to Helene Landry:

A. Josaphat (Joseph) Broussard, born November 29, 1771 (SM Ch., v. 1, p. 28); died April 19, 1836, age 64 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 56, no. 24); married October 16, 1793, Marie-Francoise Trahan, born 1774 Belle-Isle-en Mer, France; succession date August, 1848 (Opel. Ct. Hse: Succ. no. 1381), daughter of Pierre Trahan and Marguerite Duhon. Their eight children:

1. Eloi (Elroy) Broussard, baptized at age of four months April 5, 1795 (SM Ch., v. 4, no., 640); died July 1, 1883, at age 96 (Loreauville Ch. v. 1, p. 26); married March 1, 1813, Suzanne Broussard born December 24, 1795, daughter of Joseph Broussard and Anne Breau; succ. dated November 21, 1867 (SM Ch. v. 4, no. 2052)
2. Marie-Aspasie Broussard, born June 3, 1796 (SM Ch. v. 4, no. 806); married July 15, 1817 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 48) Pierre Arceneaux born about 1795, son of Pierre Arceneaux and Angelique Bourgeois
3. Marie-Dionisia (Denise), born December 31, 1797 (SM Ch. v. 5, no. 25)
4. Rosemond Broussard, born February 5, 1800 (SM Ch. v. 5, no. 229); died August 31, 1864 age 60 (NI Ch. v. 1, p. 62), succ. dated September 1864 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1835); married 1st September 22, 1818 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 106) Josephine Broussard, daughter of Joseph Broussard and Constance Leblanc; married 2nd April 24, 1848 (NI Ch. v. 1, p. 99) Hortance Hebert born August 18, 1802 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 79), daughter of Athanase Hebert and Felicite Breau.
5. Anne Broussard, born April 11, 1802 (SM Ch. v.5, no. 490); died November 25, 1875 (Lydia Ch. v. 1, p. 16)
6. Marguerite Broussard, born March 5, 1804 (SM C. v. 6, no. 235); married July 24, 1820 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 212) Alexandre Arceneaux of St. Jacques born about 1798, son of Pierre Arceneaux and Angelique Bourgeois; she died January 29, 1838, at age 40 (SM Ch. v. 5, p. 78, no. 3), Succ. dated July 24, 1838 (Franklin Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 378)
7. Josaphat Broussard Jr., born January 5, 1806 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 465); married October 5, 1826, Arthemise Ransonnet, born October 25, 1807 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 262), daughter of Henry Ransonnet of Liege and Rosalie Landry of St. Martinville; died July 6, 1844 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 10)
8. Achilles Broussard, born September 27, 1809 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 643); died February 9, 1810 at age 7 months (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 612)

Children of second marriage to Anne Benoit

A. Edouard A. Broussard of False Point born October 15, 1777 (SM Ch., v. 1, p. 58); died succ. dated January 6, 1831 (Frank. Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 661); had three children with the daughter of Pierre Amand Thibodeaux and Gertrude Bourg:

1. Leon Broussard born August 10, 1802 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 22); married 1st April 15, 1823 (SM Ch., v. 6, no., 326) Clara Broussard born October 5, 1802 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 14), daughter of Joseph Broussard and Scholastique Broussard; married 2nd December 10, 1849 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 109) Caroline Virgine Boutte, daughter of Francois Cesar Boutte and Marie Celeste Gonsoulin
2. Edouard Belissaire Broussard born April 11, 1804 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 219); married February 20, 1832 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 198) Emelitte Marie Malite Broussard of Saint Martinville, born April 20, 1811 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 1208), daughter of Pierre, Jr. (Joseph) Broussard and Scholastique Broussard

3. Anne Erasia Elizabeth Broussard, born March 12, 1806 (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 464); died November 29, 1859; married May 14, 1821, Aurelien Benjamin Dugas, born May 23, 1800, son of Eloy Dugas and Susanne Bonin. Their children include:

- a. Benjamin Dugas, born July 31, 1822; died December 4, 1822, age 5 months
- b. Benjamin Telesphore Dugas, born October 31, 1823; died January 11, 1853; married January 21, 1845, Coralie Dugas, born March 2, 1826, daughter of Eloi Dugas, Jr. and Julie Broussard
- c. Suzanne Elmiere Dugas, born July 18, 1825; died February 2, 1846; married September 21, 1841, Adolphe Berard born May 23, 1818; buried September 12, 1902, in Loreauville, son of Jean Baptiste Berard and Constance Breauux
- d. Marie Leonide (Elonie) Dugas, born April 25, 1829; died November 29, 1836
- e. Amelia Zeolide Dugas, born July 29, 1827; died August 18, 1847; married April 17, 1847, Camille Hebert born August 2, 1823; buried March 3, 1902 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 111), son of Charles Hebert and Emiline Picou
- f. Edouard Dugas, born March 16, 1831; married August 10, 1852 Elmiere Gonsoulin born about 1832, daughter of St. Clair Gonsoulin and Marcelite Bourgeois
- g. Agathe Dugas, born February 4, 1833 (SM Ch., v.8, no., 439)
- h. Vital Octave Dugas, born April 24, 1835, died October 5, 1837
- i. Marguerite Odile (Elodie) Dugas, born March 8, 1837; died September 28, 1864 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 62); married December 8, 1853 (NI Ch. v. 1, p. 161) Emile Adolphe Segura born May 22, 1831 (SM Ch. v.8, no. 202); died May 11, 1888 (Succ. no. 522), son of Raphael Segura, Sr., and Marie Carmelite Romero. Their children include:

(1) Marie Angele Segura, born May 17, 1855 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 202); died November 6, 1910, in New Iberia; married October 5, 1881, Louis Gaston Judice, born November 6, 1858 (SM Ch. v. 10, no. 650); died September 26, 1894 (SM Ch. v. 6, p. 32); son of Louis Gustave Judice and Marie Clara Provost. Their children include:

(a) Marie Regina (Nana) Judice, born July 17, 1882; died December, 1968; married James J. Mayer, born December 25, 1891; died April 25, 1972

(b) Marie Rose Judice, born September 22, 1883 (NI C., v. 4, p.55); married 1st January 21, 1904 (NI Ch., v. 4, p. 113) Lee Julien Carter, born 1868 in Decatur, Alabama; died March 19, 1906, Crowley, La., son of Robert Michael Carter and Elizabeth Ratliff. The couple had a daughter Marie Antoinette Olga Carter, born November 4, 1904; married September 3, 1929, in Plaquemine, La. Philip Justin Neubig born April 14, 1898; died March 26, 1974, son of Philip Neubig and Christina Groebel. The couple had six children:

(aa) Philip Henry Neubig born October 20, 1929; married August 13, 1955, Marianne Ludwig born September 9, 1929, in Crown Point, Indiana, daughter of Nick Ludwig and Frances Adler. The couple had four children: Philip Nicholas born April, 1957, married 1979 Takoka Kwasaki; Michael Thomas Neubig, born September 28, 1959; Raymond Charles Neubig born January 7, 1962; Gregory Peter Neubig born November 9, 1964

(bb) Julien Lee Carter born March 21, 1931; married August 29, 1959, Nadine Clair Drinkwater, born August 3, 1936. The parents of David Lee Neubig born July 12, 1963, and Christina Claire Neubig born May 1, 1967

(cc) Henry Conrad Neubig born June 11, 1932, married born June 11, 1932; married March 31, 1957, Joan Jones born February 17, 1933; died September 12, 1978. They parented Jacqueline Marlene Neubig, born July 31, 1962, and Eric Conrad Neubig born December 21, 1963, married October 9, 1979, Linda Hutchins Giddens, born August 3, 1947--the parents of three children: Brian Rush Giddens Neubig born 1973; Michael Alex Giddens Neubig born 1978; Kurt Maximillian Neubig born 1981

(dd) Mary Olga Neubig born October 20, 1933

(ee) Marie Annette Neubig born September 6, 1935; married January 22, 1966, Donald Remy Monier, born October 3, 1938. The couple had two children: Jeanne Adrienne Monier born January 12, 1968, and Sheryl Monier born March 30, 1970

(ff) Gerard Neubig, born September 6, 1937;

married February 6, 1960, Robert G. Waguespack, born November 6, 1936. The couple had three children: Robert Stephen Waguespack, born March 27, 1961; Jane Marie Waguespack, born January 16, 1962; married 1st, February 27, 1982, Morris Ray Tomlinson, born February 22, 1960; and married 2nd, Glenn Michael Waguespack, born August 16, 1966

(22) Marie Lee Carter, born February 16, 1906; died November 13, 1985; married July 11, 1926, Benjamin Louis Kiper. The couple had two children: Lawrence Kiper and Marguerite Kiper

(2) Carmelite Corinne Segura, born December 4, 1856 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 120); died several years before 1920; married October 16, 1884 (NI Ch., v. 3, p. 211) Cyriaque Raoul Couvillon, son of Symphorien Couvillon and Arneline Gremillon, born May 8, 1861; died May 10, 1929. The couple had six children:

(a) Marie Adolphe Couvillon, born October 3, 1887 (GC Ch. v. 3, p. 211)

(b) Raoul Joseph Couvillon, born December 17, 1888 (NI Ch., v. 5, p. 59)

(c) Louis Laurent Couvillon, born November 29, 1889 (NI Ch., v. 5, p.

102)

(d) Stanislaus Fernand Couvillon, born June 10, 1894 (NI Ch., v. 6, p.

128)

(e) Lou Odile Couvillon, born 1897?; died 1919

(f) Rene Georges Couvillon, born December 16, 1897 (NI Ch., v. 6, p.

302)

(3) Joseph René Segura, born March 14, 1859; died December 23, 1885 (Abbeville Ch., v. 2, p. 130), Succession (Abbeville Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 103); married July 9, 1879 (Abbeville Ch., v. 2, p. 128) Elisa Marie Nuñez, born July 11, 1861 (Abbeville Ch., v. 2, p. 49); died June 2, 1899 (Abbeville Ch., v. 3, p. 82), daughter of Joseph Adrien Nuñez and Oliva Guidry. The couple's children:

(a) Marie Beulah Segura, born Blanche Mouton. Mother of Owen, Segmann and Waverly Hebert. Her children include:

11. Elliott Hebert; married Agnes Vincent

22. Elvey Hebert, married Lilly Broussard

33. Melvin Hebert

44. Alton Hebert, married Elizabeth Bourgeois and had one child Melba Faye Hebert

55. Melba Hebert, died at age 3 years

66. Woodrow Hebert, married Beulah Comeaux

(b) Marie Viola Segura, born June 18, 1882; married Peirre Artibus Hebert, born May 1, 1879 (Abbeville Ch., v. 4, p. 141), son of Theogene Hebert and Irene LaPointe; died August 17, 1964. The couple had five children:

11. Inez Marie Hebert, born February 27, 1900 (Abbeville Ch., v. 7, p. 281); married April 26, 1921, Whitney Prejean, born October 17, 1899. The parents of:

aa. Joseph Prejean, born February 20, 1922, died February 20, 1922

bb. Flora Belle Prejean, born September 1, 1925;

married July 30, 1945, Roy Charles Theriot, born May 24, 1923. The parents of:

(11) Marilyn Theriot, born December 26, 1947; married May 28, 1967, William Willis Delony; Divorced 1976; married 2nd July 20, 1977, Richard Greene, born September 26, 1948

(22) Donna Lyn Theriot, born April 25, 1961

- cc. Donald Prejean, born February 13, 1934; married July 19, 1969 Judy Bormann, born September 24, 1942. Parents of:
- (11) Sharon Rene Prejean, born August 12, 1972
  - (22) Linda Michelle Prejean, born December 28, 1973
  - (33) Janey Lynn Prejean, born August 25, 1977
22. Wilmer Joseph Hebert, born October 24, 1901; married Ouida Simoneaux, born March 27, 1909
33. Wilbur Antim Hebert, born September 11, 1904; married November 6, 1941, Josephine Crow, born July 20, 1920
44. Wilda Marie Hebert, born September 11, 1904; married December 22, 1928, Henry Howard Deshotels, born October 8, 1904. Parents of:
- aa. Richard James Deshotels, born March 16, 1939; married June 3, 1961, Dean Bouillion, born September 28, 1939. Parents of:
    - (11) Deborah Katherine Deshotels, born March 28, 1962
    - (22) Sherrie Lynn Deshotels, born November 30, 1942
    - (33) Rochelle Ann Deshotels, born April 29, 1966
  - bb. Louis Archibald Deshotels, born November 30, 1942; married March 31, 1984, Connie Lucille Fontenot, born November 18, 1953, daughter of Isorn Fontenot and Evela Fontenot. Parents of:
    - (11) Jacob Louis Deshotels, born November 17, 1985
55. Hilda Hebert, born November 24, 1906; married December 21, 1929 Louis Archibald Bacon, born July 22, 1908; died June 17, 1934. Parents of:
- (11) Gary David Clark, born June 25, 1956
  - (22) Gregory Clark, born April, 1959
  - (33) Sandra Elizabeth Clark, born April 19, 1964
- (c) Joseph Sidney Segura, born November 1, 1883 (Abbeville Ch., v. 5, p. 33); died January 27, 1948; married April 7, 1904, Celestine Gutierrez, born March 1, 1883 (Abbeville Ch., v. 4, p. 341), daughter of Joseph Gutierrez and Lezima Trahan; died March 24, 1959. Parents of seven children:
- 11. Marie Olga Segura, born April 3, 1905; died April 28, 1905
  - 22. William Aubion (St. Aubin) Segura, born March 1, 1907; died March 1, 1971; married April 7, 1929 Doris Ada Gooch, born August 17, 1909, daughter of Claude Gooch and Victoria (Zettie) Stansbury. Parents of six children:
    - (11) Michelle Segura, born December 2, 1954; married Dennis Sheehan and had three children: Laura, Sarah and Matthew
    - (22) Valencia Segura, born January, 1956, died January, 1956
    - (33) Felicia Segura, born September 16, 1958
    - (44) Nicole Segura, born June 26, 1960
    - (55) William Gooch Segura, II, born September 22, 1964
    - (66) Ariann Segura, born September 28, 1966
  - (cc) Patricia Doris Segura, born June 3, 1932
  - (dd) Michael Gerard Segura, born March 30, 1936; married 1st Lorette Guidroz, born May 24, 1936, married 2nd Joycelyn DeFelice. Children of Michael Gerard Segura and Lorette Guidroz:
    - (11) Clement Michael Segura, born April 28, 1960

- (22) Mark Andrew Segura, born November 4, 1961
  - (33) John William Segura, born December 12, 1962
  - (44) Anne Cecilia Segura, born November 24, 1970
  - (ee) Christopher Richard Segura, born December 6, 1942; married 1st Patricia Joyce Allison; married 2nd Sue Gallagher; married 3rd Vicki Van Hook.
- Children of first marriage:
- (11) Elizabeth (Libby) Segura, born June 12, 1968
- Children of third marriage:
- (11) Aurora Victoria Rafaela Segura, born July 15, 1986
33. Pearl Mary Segura, born June 12, 1909
44. Libby Marie Segura, born July 25, 1911
55. Joseph Sidney Segura, Jr., born November 25, 1917; married Mae Ellen Hilliard. Their children:
- (aa) Joseph Sidney Segura, III, born May 11, 1957
  - (bb) John Clint Segura, born July 3, 1958; married Tamara Hudson. Parents of:
    - (11) Brandi Nicole Segura
  - (cc) Timothy Patrick Segura, born May 27, 1959; married Tina Patin and the parents of two children:
    - (11) Natasha Segura
    - (22) Zackory Segura
  - (dd) Suzanne Celestine Segura, born July 9, 1960; married Douglas Edwin Chester and had two children:
    - (11) Alicia June Chester, born January 5, 1984
    - (22) Tonya Renee Chester, born January 15, 1985
  - (ee) Mary Elizabeth Segura, born January 19, 1962; married Richard Allen Chaka. Parents of:
    - (11) Christi Chaka
66. Joseph James Segura, Sr., born November 26, 1923; married Norma Lee Broussard August 7, 1948; born December 21, 1927. Parents of three children:
- (aa) Gerald James Segura, born June 6, 1949
  - (bb) Joseph James Segura, Jr., born October 23, 1950; married August 30, 1980, Lula Alegonda Gardiner, born February 12, 1954. Parents of:
    - (11) Christopher James Segura, born December 21, 1987 (adopted)
  - (cc) Stephanie Lee Segura, born June 27, 1970
- (d) Marie Dora Segura, born April 11, 1885 (Abbeville Ch., v. 5, p. 94); married Odin Joseph Socrates Guidry. The couple had seven children:
- (11) Lawrence Guidry--lived a few months
  - (22) Alfred Guidry--lived a few days
  - (33) Infant; died shortly after birth
  - (44) Gracie Guidry; died at age 10
  - (55) Jeanette Guidry, married Sinclair Jones. Their children:
    - (aa) Theresa Jones; married Kermit Broussard and had two children:
      - Romona and Rebecca Broussard
  - (66) Adam Roy Guidry
  - (77) Oren Joseph Guidry

(e) Marie Eulah Segura, born August 4, 1886 (Abbeville Ch., v. 5, p. 152); married Gilbert Numa Guidry. The parents of five children:

11. Verna Marie Guidry; married 1st Charles M. Moore; married 2nd Rodney Québedeaux. Their children:

(11) Anita Louise Odea; married Thomas Dupry and the couple had two children:

(aa) Chris Dupuy

(bb) Joy Dupuy; married first Jack Grotto; married 2nd Raymond Delino. Children of the second marriage:

(111) Carolyn Delino

(222) Christine Delino

(333) Clair Delino

(444) Charles Delino

(555) Jody Delino

22. Dewey Joseph Guidry, born March 10, 1907; married Catherine Ackley. Parents of the following children:

aa. Dewey Guidry, Jr.; married Carolyn Needham. Their children:

(11) Kathryn Guidry, twin

(22) Kathleen Guidry, twin

(33) Dewey Guidry, III

(44) Carolyn Guidry

(55) Lois Guidry

(66) William Guidry

bb. Gilbert Guidry; married Catherine Ann Devlin. Their children:

(11) William Guidry

(22) Susan Guidry

(33) Mary Ann Guidry

(44) Kathryn Guidry

(55) Francis Guidry

(66) Eileen Guidry

cc. Ann Guidry, married 1st Jack Anglin, Sr.; married 2nd Robert Moore. Children of the first marriage:

(11) Jack Anglin, Jr.

(22) Linda Anglin

(33) Michael Anglin

(44) Clifford Anglin

(55) Robert Anglin

dd. Judy Guidry; married Pete Yecco. Children:

(11) Albert Yecco

(22) Mark Yecco

(33) Paul Yecco

ee. Lois Guidry; married Robert Shields. Children:

(11) Danny Shields

(22) Kim Shields

(33) Chris Shields

(44) Brian Shields

(55) Bernice Shields

(66) Judy Shields

(77) Colleen Shields

33. Jesse Joseph Guidry, born September 21, 1908; died January 30, 1978; married Marguerite Klotz

44. Velma Marie Guidry, born September 11, 1909; married Alvin Roy Beuxis.

The couple parented five children:

aa. Gaynel Beauxis; married Floyd Fleming.

Children:

(11) Lisa Fleming

(22) Floyd Fleming, II

(33) John Fleming

(44) Julie Fleming

bb. Adrienne Beauxis; married J. Simon

Leblanc. Children:

(11) Michelle LeBlanc

(22) J. Simon LeBlanc, Jr.

(33) James Mathew LeBlanc

cc. Virginia Beauxis; married Richard Johnson.

Children:

(11) Rachael Kathryn Johnson

dd. Alvin Roy Beauxis, Jr.; married Susan

Viator. Children:

(11) Stacey Elizabeth Beauxis

ee. Susan Beauxis; married Henry Petry

55. Sidney Guidry, born January 6, 1911

(d) Marguerite Annette Segura, born March 6, 1861 (NI Ch. v. 1, p. 270); died December 20, 1887 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 142); married July 24, 1886 (NI Ct. Hse., Mar. no. 2437) Edmond Darby, born June 23, 1854 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 190), son of Jean Etienne (Seigle, Legre) Darby and Marie Zeolide Bonin

j. Eraste Dugas, born May 1, 1841 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1770); Emancipation: January 26, 1860 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1666); died January 3, 1863, at age 22 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 288), Succession dated February 9, 1863 (SM Ct. Hse. : Succ. no. 1786)

k. Eloi Desire Dugas, born September 27, 1843 (SM Ch. v.1, p. 55); died November 22, 1849 at age seven years (SM Ch. v. 5, p. 189)

l. Francoise Dugas, born December 3, 1845 (SM Ch. v. 9, no. 21)

m. Joseph Odilon Dugas, born January 23, 1848 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 114); died July 1, 1850 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 194)

n. Bernard Delue (Deluc) Dugas, born October 26, 1852 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 164); died January 14, 1902 (Laf. Ch., v. 5, p. 13); married August 29, 1871 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 151) Aurelia Norres, born October 28, 1851 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 150), daughter of Arvelien William Norres and Octavie Josephine Viator

B. Scholastica Broussard, born about 1778; died May 25, Succession dated July 27, 1827 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 380); married about 1800 Pierre Joseph Broussard, born about 1780, son of Pierre Broussard and Marie Melancon. Their children included:

1. Clarisse (Clair) Broussard, born February 18, 1801 (SM. Ch., v. 5, no. 413) Louis Dugas, Jr., of Saint Martinville (SM Ch. v. 6, no. 238) son of Louis Dugas, Sr., of Saint Martinville and Constance LeBlanc of Saint James on the Mississippi River (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 395)

2. Clara Broussard, born October 5, 1802 (SM. Ch., v. 6, no. 44); died Succession dated October 11, 1849 (SM Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1234); married April 15, 1823, Leon Broussard (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 326), born August 10, 1802 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 22), son of Edouard Broussard of False Point and Anne Thibodeau of Saint Martinville

3. Pierre Broussard, born about 1804; died January 7, 1805 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 390)

4. Claire Broussard, born November 15, 1805 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 322)

5. Joseph Derosin Broussard, born November 20, 1807 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 522); Married February 28, 1829, Julie Broussard of Saint Martinville (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 112), born June 21, 1810 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1002); died July 13, 1851 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 151), daughter of Edouard Broussard and Anne (Nanette) Thibodeaux

6. Joseph Broussard, born about 1810; died March 7, 1810 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 617)



7. Emilie Broussard, born about 1813; married February 20, 1832 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 196) Belsaire Edouard Broussard of Saint Martinville born April 11, 1804 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 219), son of Edouard A. Broussard and Anne (Annette Thibodeaux)

8. Bruno Broussard, born August 13, 1813 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1637); died Succession dated March 23, 1866 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 2008); married June 6, 1839 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 137) Julie Hermine Dugas, born July 21, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1156), daughter of Eloi Dugas and Julie Broussard

9. Clairville Broussard, born about 1814; died Succession dated October 31, 1855 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1483); married July 1, 1833 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 248) Alexandrine Alice (Alix) Bienvenu Devince, born December 4, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 292); died May 26, 1891 (SM Ch., v. 13, p. 165), daughter of Joseph Terence Bienvenu and Marie Julie Guilbeaud

10. Child Broussard, died March 18, 1816, at age six weeks (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1036)

11. Francois Despalier Broussard, born November 25, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 369); died August 6, 1844 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 139), Succession dated September 27, 1844 (SM Ct. Hse., Succ. v. 8, no. 1030), married September 29, 1836 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 27) Susanne Amelia Prince, born January 8, 1818 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 351); died October 25, 1885 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 33), daughter of Antoine Prince and Susanne Louviere

12. Marie Carmelite Broussard, born November 17, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1157); died July 9, 1833 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 29, no. 52)

13. Anne Helina (Elina) Broussard, born September 3, 1823 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1612); died, Succession dated November 29, 1862 (SM Ch., Succ. no. 1768); married January 23, 1840 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 154) Louis Valsin Bernard, born January 10, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1057); died December 9, 1896 (SM Ch., v. 6, p. 59), son of Francois Bernard and Constance LeBlanc

14. Anne Doralise Broussard, born September 18, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1854); died October 15, 1889 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, no. 270) Theodore Dupoy, born about 1825 in Bordeaux, France; died between 1860 and 1889; son of Jean Dupoy and Marie Antoinette de Rossencourt

15. Child Broussard, died April 25, 1827 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1843)

C. Christine Broussard, baptized April 1780, at age seven months (Opel. Ch., v. 1, p. 33)

D. Anne (Ana, Nanon) Broussard, baptized March 21, 1784, at age fifteen days (SM Ch., v. 2, no. 144); died September 1814 at age thirty years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 918); married May 12, 1800 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 194) Alexandre Broussard of La Fausse Pointe, born December 15, 1776 (SM Ch., v. 1, p. 52); died October 23, 1816, at age forty years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1085), son of Simon Broussard and Marguerite Blanchard. Their children include:

1. Marguerite Broussard, born February 26, 1801 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 398)

2. Alexandre Isidore Rosclair Broussard, born November 25, 1802 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 102), died January 20, 1890 at age ninety years (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 51); married April 29, 1826 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 22) Marcellite Broussard, born November 24, 1810 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1151), died March 30, 1873 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 3), daughter of Nicolas Broussard and Adelaide Broussard.

3. Adelaide (Adele) Broussard, born February 25, 1805 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 334); died August 9, 1890 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 53); married 1st April 15, 1822 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 286) Jean Baptiste Dugas born July 24, 1802 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 515); died March 25, 1840 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 91), son of Eloi Dugas of False Pointe and Susanne Bonin; married 2nd May 31, 1845 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 259), Auguste Vincent, born about 1814; died January 8, 1902, at age eighty-eight years (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 111), son of Charles Vincent and Celeste Labauve (Labar)

4. Nicolas Broussard, born August 15, 1806 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 156)

5. Anne Broussard, born February 4, 1808 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 521)

6. Marie (Magdeleine) Broussard, born May 6, 1809 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 641); died February 19, 1820, at age eleven years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1327)

7. Simeon Amand (Simon Meous, Meance) Broussard, born February 6, 1812 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1638); died Succession dated March 4, 1857 (Laf. Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 812); married September 4, 1834 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 302) Pollonne Octavine (Celanie) Bonin of Lafayette, daughter of Pierre Bonin and Apolonie Louviere

8. Terence Broussard, born June 10, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1928)

E. Nicolas Amand Broussard of La Petit Anse (of La Fausse Pointe) born March 5, 1786 (SM Ch., v. 3, no. 117); married 1st February 11, 1806 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 49) Adelaide Broussard, born

1789; died July 20, 1820 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1375), daughter of Joseph Broussard and Anne Breaux; married 2nd June 12, 1821 (SM Ct. Hse. OA-34-1569) Celeste Comeux, born July 3, 1803 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 164), daughter of Jean Baptiste Comeaux of Opelousas and Rosalie Prejean of St. Martinville. Children of Nicolas Amand Broussard and Adelaide Broussard:

1. Baltazar Broussard, born September 22, 1806 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 429); died August 26, 1808
2. Joseph Evariste Broussard of Lafayette, born about 1807; married February 16, 1829 (Laf. Ch., v. 1, no. 114) Scholastique Giroir (Girouard); died September 20, 1890, at age eighty-three years (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 53), daughter of Simon Giroard and Adelaide Broussard
3. Adelaide Azema Broussard, born April 21, 1808 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 302); died May 2, 1810 at age three years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 621)
4. Nicolas Broussard, born September 21, 1809 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1157)
5. Marcellite Broussard, born November 24, 1810 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1157)
6. Boy Broussard, born February 12, 1811 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 682); died February 12, 1811 at birth (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 682)
7. Adelaide Broussard, born January 1, 1812 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1434); died July 17, 1822 at age fifteen (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1515)
8. Joseph Neuville, born February 12, 1813 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1639); died June 23, 1818, at age seven years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1188)
9. Carmille Broussard, born about 1813; died before June 26, 1890 (see marriage of daughter Philonese to Jean Louis Bessan) married 1st February 11, 1833 (Laf. Ch., v. 2, p. 81) Maximilien Giroir of Lafayette, born November 27, 1811 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1367); died Succession dated April 19, 1870 (Laf. Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1257), son of Pierre Giroir and Magdeleine Thibodeaux
10. Rosemond Broussard, born about 1813; married June 4, 1844, Marie Elina (Elsa) Broussard (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 53), born August 9, 1822 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1257), daughter of Philemond Broussard and Lise Ardoin
11. Emelite Broussard, born September 7, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1630); died April 13, 1877 at age sixty-five years (Laf. Ch., v. 4, p. 209) Succession dated May 5, 1877 (Laf. Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1523); married December 30, 1839 (Laf. Ch., v. 3, p. 46) Joseph Ozeme Melancon, born April 9, 1816 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1); died March 11, 1869, Succession dated March 22, 1869 (Laf. Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1219), son of Jean Baptiste Melancon and Susanne Landry
12. Camille Broussard, born February 15 1816 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 597); died September 13, 1824, at age nine years (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1663)
13. Carmelite (Emelite, Melite) Broussard, born June 5, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 603); married August 15, 1831 (Laf. Ch., v. 2, p. 49) Robert Bell, Jr., born February 2, 1808 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 517); died October 12, 1837, at age twenty-five years (Laf. Ch., v. 3, p. 117), son of Robert Bell, Sr., of Cote Gelee and South Carolina and Angelique Julie Broussard
14. Palemond (Phamelon? Rosemond?) Broussard, born about 1819; died November 28, 1856, at age forty years? (NI Ch., v. 4, p. 54); married May 8, 1839 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 9) Marie Elesima Broussard, born March 21, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1712), daughter of Edouard Broussard and Marie Dorallise Ardoin

Children of Nicolas Broussard and Celeste Comeaux

1. Celeste Emma Broussard, born about 1822; married September 10, 1838 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 108) Elol Dugas, Jr., born December 2 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 357), son of Elol Dugas and Julie Broussard
2. Orelie Seville Broussard, born December 25, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1733); dated August 12, 1830 (Laf. Ch., v. 2, p. 96)
3. Zulima (Julienne) Broussard, born about 1827; baptized March 9, 1829, at age two and one half years (Laf. Ch., v. 3, p. 87)
4. Zulmee Broussard, baptized March 9, 1829 (Laf. Ch., v. 3, p. 87)
5. Onezime Broussard, born about 1828; baptized July 24, 1830, at age two and one half years (Laf. Ch., v. 3, p. 259)

Children of Nicolas Broussard and Celeste Comeaux

1. Celeste Emma Broussard, born about 1822; died May 8, 1845, age eighteen ? (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 12); married September 10, 1838 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 108) Elol Dugas, Jr., born December

2, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 108) Eloi Dugas, Jr., born December 2 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 357), son of Eloi Dugas and Julie Broussard

2. Orelie Seville Broussard, born December 25, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1733); died August 12, 1830 (Laf Ch., v. 2, p. 96)

3. Zulma (Julienne) Broussard, born about 1827; baptized March 9, 1829, at age two and one half years (Laf Ch., v. 3, p. 87); married April 22, 1851 (NI Ch., v. 1, no. 283) Godfroy Gervais Verret, born June 9, 1828 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2220), son of Godfroy Verret and Marie Anne Verret

4. Zulmee Broussard, born about 1828; baptized March 29, 1829 (Laf Ch., v. 3, p. 87); married January 24, 1846 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 283) Paul David, Jr., born about 1826, son of Paul David, Sr., and Renee Marcelline Vincent

5. Onezime Broussard, born about 1828; baptized July 24, 1830 (Laf Ch., v. 3, p. 259)

6. Child Broussard, died May 23, 1829, at age eight days (Laf Ch., v. 2, p. 72)

7. Marie Zulma Broussard, born April 2, 1832 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1225)

8. Josephine Irma Broussard, born June 16, 1834 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1226)

9. Louise Alzire Broussard, born October 9, 1835 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1227)

10. Nicolas Sostene Broussard, born March 28, 1837 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1228)

11. Phylomena Broussard, born July 31, 1839 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 14)

F. Eloi Amand Broussard, born April 12, 1788; died Succession dated December 12, 1832 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 705); married 1st June 17, 1809 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 152) Marie Broussard, born January 20, 1789 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 355); died Succession dated October 5, 1821 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 416), daughter of Jean Broussard and Louise Ludvine Broussard; married 2nd July 31, 1822 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 302) Marie Irma Boutte, born about 1802; died July 17, 1865 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 31), daughter of Antoine Hilaire Boutte of Bayou Teche and Marie Lucille Decuir.

Children of Eloi Amand Broussard and Marie Broussard:

1. Child Broussard, died June 19, 1810, at age twelve days (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 630)

2. Marie Josephine Broussard, born September 28, 1811 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1365); died February 17, 1869 (Youngsville Ch., v. 1, p. 142); married January 3, 1828, Eli Aurelien (Orellen) St. Julien D'Erneville, born October 8, 1805 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 409); died September 13, 1865, at age sixty years (Laf Ch., v. 4, p. 121), Succession dated November 24, 1865 (Laf Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1008), son of Louis St. Julien d'Erneville of Bordeaux, France, and Bayou Tortue and Anastasie Broussard

3. Marie Cellima Broussard, died April 21, 1813, at age twenty days (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 820)

4-5. Twins Broussard, died May 25, 1814, at age one month (SM Ch., v. 4, nos. 888 and 889)

6. Child Broussard, died September 22, 1815, at age three days (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 986)

7. Eloy Lucien Broussard, born October 22, 1816 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 187); died September 28, 1858 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 258), Succession dated March 21, 1859 (SM Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1628); married June 4, 1835 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 333) Elisa LeBlanc, born January 16, 1819 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 678); died November 14, 1891, at age seventy-eight years (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 375), daughter of Desire LeBlanc and Marcellite LeBlanc

8. Child Broussard, died July 26, 1818, at birth (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1198)

9. Marie Broussard, born December 27, 1819 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 775)

10. Child Broussard, born January 13, 1820, at age fifteen days (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1316)

11. Celestine Broussard, born March 2, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1079)

Children of Eloi Amand Broussard and Marie Irma Boutte

1. Numa Broussard, born about 1824; died October 4, 1836, at age twelve years (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 62, no. 69)

2. Marie Virginie Broussard, born May 19, 1927 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1972)

3. Marie Lucille Broussard, born July 21, 1829 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2337); still living on February 6, 1888, when son Armand Dugas was married; married January 14, 1846 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 281) Francois Ovide Dugas, born January 2, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1613); died Succession dated November 5, 1867 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 2030), son of Louis Dugas, Jr., and Clarisse Broussard.

4. Gustave Broussard, born December 16, 1831 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 282); died July 7, 1887, at age forty-eight years (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 41); married December 11, 1851 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 131) Alphonsine (Elizabeth, Isabelle, Clementine) Dugas, born August 31, 1833 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 519); died October 31, 1901 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 110) Mrs. Gustave Broussard, daughter of Louis Dugas and Clarisse Broussard

G. Suzanne (Suzette, Anne) Broussard, born April 2, 1790 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 418); died before April 22, 1851 (SM Ct. Hse. Mar. Bk. 1, no. 76); date of marriage of her daughter Marie Sellmene Decuir to Louis Fournier of France. See also Decuir, Aspasie; Alcide; Maximilien, appointment of curator (Succ. dated August 8, 1846, SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1104); married November 11, 1811 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 226) Maximilien Decuir born 1780; died November 9, 1853 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 47), son of Francois Decuir and Marie Manon Labbe. Their children include:

1. Boy Decuir, died August 2, 1812, at age fifteen days (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 770)
2. Lucien Louis Decuir, born July 10, 1813 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1597); died January 31, 1887 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 141); married September 24, 1838 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 111) Marie Cleonise (Cleannine) Breaux, born December 25, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 2054), daughter of Donat Breaux and Anastasie Guilbeau
3. Francois Emile Decuir, born April 14, 1815 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 2050); died succession dated January 27, 1868 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 2111); married November 7, 1836 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 29) Marie Uranie Babin, born October 18, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1775); died January 20, 1893 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 66), daughter of Julien Babin and Seraphie Guilbeau
4. Ulger (Eucher) Decuir, born June 14, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 501); died May 15, 1871 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 26); married November 11, 1840 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 18) Silvanie Decuir born in St. Mary Parish, born April 18, 1824 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1511); died August 11, 1901 (NI Ch., v. 13, p. 120), daughter of Zenon Decuir and Elizabeth Hebert
5. Eugene Clemille Decuir, born May 19, 1819 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 797)
6. Ferjus (Vergus) Decuir, born December 25, 1820 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1058); died May 3, 1862 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 58); Succession dated September 7, 1864 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1833); married June 30, 1846 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 83) Marie Alphonsine (Melazie Catherine) Broussard, born December 5, 1827 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2031), daughter of Don Louis Broussard and Marie Phelonise Broussard
7. Marie Decuir, born September 7, 1822 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1289)
8. Aspasie Decuir, born March 6, 1825 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1833); died March 20, 1892 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 60); married January 13, 1848 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 97) Charles Mestayer of Iberville, born August 19, 1826 (Opel. Ch., v. 3, p. 146), son of Francois Mestayer and Euphemie Ida Meyer
9. Joseph Alcide Decuir of New Iberia, born February 18, 1827 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 8); died April 19, 1888 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 144) Succession November 21, 1889 (NI Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 563); married 1st December 16, 1851 (SM Ch., v. 9, no. 13) Marguerite Olympe Dugas, born January 8, 1837 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1238); died Succession dated September 2, 1864 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1832); married 2nd September 24, 1864 Marie Alphonsine (Melazie, Catherine) Broussard, widow of Ferjus Decuir (SM Ct. Hse., Mar. v. 1, no. 1477); born December 5, 1827 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2031), daughter of Don Louis Broussard and Marie Phelonise Broussard
10. Maximilien Decuir, Jr., born January 11, 1829 (SM Ch., v. 18, no. 7); married October 14, 1851 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 130) see Hebert, D. J., SWLR, v. 5-33 Marie Clara Mestayer, born June 17, 1839 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 19); died December 6, 1891 (NI Ch., v. 2, p. 184), daughter of Francois Mestayer and Euphemie Ida Miller

11. Marie Sellmene (Cellmene) Decuir, born about 1831; died Succession dated November 26, 1853 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 147); married April 22, 1851 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 124) Louis Fournier of France, born about 1831 in France; died August 15, 1862 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 283), son of Joseph Laurent Fournier and Marie Antoinette Bulland

12. Clara Elizabeth Decuir, born October 28, 1836 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 2); died September 2, 1899 (NI Ch., v. 3, p. 84); married June 12, 1855 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 186) Eugene Henri Wallet (Walet), born September 17, 1809, in Lorraine, France; died May 22, 1894 (NI Ch., Fun. Bk. v. 3, p. 32), son of Henry Wallet and Felicite (Geay ?)

H. Marie Louise Felonise (Phelonise) Broussard, born October 20, 1792 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 584); died March 19, 1879 (NI Ch. v. 2, p. 106) listed as Mrs. Don Louis Broussard; married Don Louis Broussard, born January 15, 1782 (SM Ch., v. 2, no. 49); died October 9, 1843 at age fifty-five (SM Ch., v. 2, p. 124), son of Pierre Broussard and Marie Melancon. The couple's children:

1. Don Louis Broussard, Jr., born May 8, 1811 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1207); died Succession dated February 8, 1886 (NI Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 455); married 1st January 25, 1832, Adelaide Broussard, born November 2, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1082), daughter of Silvestre Broussard and Adelaide Breaux, married 2nd October 26, 1846 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 302) Celanie Cormier, born October 2, 1925 (GC Ch., v. 1, p. 44); died March 21, 1869 (SM Ch., v. 15, p. 331), daughter of

Hypolite Cormier and Adelaide Richard, married 3rd May 5, 1870 (SM Ch., v. 10., no. 350) Arsene Barras, born April 11, 1843 (SM Ch., v. 9., no. 140), daughter of Hypolite Barras and Marie Guilbeau

2. Pierre Broussard, born March 31, 1813 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1533)

3. Simoleon Broussard, born about 1813, died September 11, 1815, at age two years (SM Ch., v. 16, no. 1533)

4. Gregoire Telesphore Broussard, born April 18, 1815 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 2004); died March 6, 1866, at age fifty-one years (SM Ch., v. 15, p. 311). Succession dated March 15, 1866 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1929); married January 20, 1846 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 311) (SM Ct. Hse. Mar. Bk., no. 23) Marie Mathilde Bienvenu, born July 27, 1829 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2267), daughter of Charles Timoleon Bienvenu and Marie (Desirée) Josephine Gonsoulin

5. Marie Evilina Broussard, born about 1816; died June 23, 1875, at age fifty-eight (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 9); married October 8, 1833 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 351) Jean Baptiste Desire Broussard, born August 27, 1814 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1820); died February 17, 1882 (Desire) (Loreauville Ch. v. 7, no. 252)

6. Marie Louise Broussard, born June 21, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 252)

7. Child Broussard, died September 4, 1819, at birth (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1274)

8. Tertule Broussard, born October 18, 1820 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 987); died August 12, 1867 (NI Ch., p. 73) Succession dated October 31, 1867 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 2029); married November 7, 1845 (NI Ch., v. 7, no. 1724), daughter of Raphael Segura and Marie Carmelite Romero

9. Jean Clebert (Klebert) Broussard, born December 14, 1822 (Laf Ch., v. 1, p. 27) or December 18, 1822 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 849); died April 16, 1900, at age seventy-nine years (Abbeville Ch., v. 3, p. 101); married June 15, 1848 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 100) Modeste Emilie Decuir, born September 28, 1829 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2372); died Succession dated November 13, 1897 (Abbeville Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 354), daughter of Zenon Decuir and Elizabeth Hebert

10. Marie Alphonsine (Melazie, Catherine) Broussard, born December 5, 1927 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2031); married June 30, 1846 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 83) Ferjus Decuir, born December 25, 1820 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1058); died May 3, 1862, at age forty-two (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 58) Succession dated September 7, 1864 (SM Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1833), son of Maximilien Decuir and Suzanne (Suzette, Anne) Broussard

11. Rosemond Broussard, born about 1828; died October 26, 1833, at age five years (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 34, no. 93)

12. Marguerite Felicie Broussard, born July 20, 1832 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 364)

13. (Domingue) Ulger (Ulcer) Broussard, born August 4, 1838 (NI Ct. Hse., Succ. July 3, 1885, NI Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 445); married October 2, 1860 (SM Ch., v. 9, p. 306) Marie Constance Leblanc, born January 29, 1841 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1792); died (buried) May 25, 1901, at age fifty-eight (NI Ch., v. 3, p. 117), daughter of (Giles) Edmond Leblanc and Leocade Leblanc

1. Louise Broussard, born October 20, 1792 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 584)

J. Julie (Suzanne) Broussard, born May 31, 1795 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 765); died June 9, 1843 (SM C., v. 5, p. 117). Succession dated December 14, 1843 (SM Ct. Hse. no. 1005); married May 7, 1816 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 403) Eloy (Louis) Dugas, Jr., born February 20, 1795 (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 781); died January 1, 1866, at age seventy-one years (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 309) Succession dated January 29, 1866 (SM Ct. Hse., Succ. no. 1914), son of Eloi (Charlit, Edouard) Dugas, Sr., and Susanne Bonin. The couple's children include:

1. Eloy Dugas, III, born December 2, 1817 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 357); married 1st September 10, 1838 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 108) Celeste Emma Broussard, born about 1822; died May 8, 1845, age eighteen years? (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 12); daughter of Nicolas Amand Broussard and Celeste Comeaux; married 2nd January 28, 1845 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 64) Elizabeth Pouppone Judice, born January 2, 1826 (SM C., v. 17, no. 186; died January 20, 1864 at age thirty-five (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 298), daughter of Alexandre Judice and Suzanne Dugas; married 3rd May 15, 1866, Anne or Marie Irma Boutte, born July 27, 1838 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1488) or born Marie Irma November 3, 1836 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1285), daughter of Louis Terence Boutte and Celestine Rosilia Judice

2. Jean Baptiste Treville Dugas, born December 11, 1818 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 595); died August 3, 1858 at age thirty-eight (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 257); married April 15, 1841 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 24) Elismene (Elise, Lise) Broussard, born December 9, 1819 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 838); died November 17, 1861 at age forty-one (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 277)

3. Aurelien Dugas, born February 15, 1820 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 857)

4. Julie Hermine Dugas, born July 21, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1156); married 1st June 6, 1839 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 137) Bruno Broussard, born August 13, 1813 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 1637); died October 6, 1853 at age thirty-four (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 227) Succession dated March 23, 1866 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 2008), son of Joseph Piere Broussard and Scholastique Broussard, married 2nd August 19, 1861 (Laf. Ct. Hse. Mar. no. 524) Jules Weber, born May 17, 1832 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 363), son of Eugene Webre and Delphine Marie Richard

5. Edouard Jules Dugas, born October 25, 1824 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 1577), died February 27, 1890 at age about seventy (Laf. Ch., v. 4, p. 322); married July 20, 1846 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 84) (SM Ct. Hse. Mar. Bk. 1, no. 44) Emille (Amelie) Celestine Dugas, born January 5, 1830 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2401), daughter of Desire Dugas and Emile (Amelie, Melite) Broussard

6. Coralie (Rosalie) Dugas, born March 2, 1826 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2121), married 1st January 21, 1845 (NI Ch., v. 1, p. 63) Benjamin Telesphore Dugas, born 1823; died January 11, 1853 (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 217), Succession dated December 14, 1859 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1661), son of Benjamin Aurelien Dugas and Anne Erasie Broussard, married 2nd January 25, 1858 (SM Ch., v. 9, no. 235) Dosithee Breaux, born October 26, 1810 (SM Ch., no. 1068); died February 12, 1880 (Loreauville Ch., v. 1, p. 17), son of Donat Breaux and Anastasie Guilbaud

7. Louis Ferjus Dugas, born about 1827; died November 5, 1828, at age one year (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1939)

8. Marie Palestine Dugas, born February 15, 1829 (SM Ch., v. 7, no. 2305)

9. Don Louis Dugas, born August 28, 1830 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 296); married May 26, 1851 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 412) Marie Lodolska Toffiet (Toffier), daughter of Nicolas Bertrand Toffier and Jeanne Adeline Dauterive (*Aftakapas Gazette*, vol. VI, No. 1, p. 16)

10. Girl Dugas, died April 9, 1832, at age eight days (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 15, no. 11)

11. Charles Fualdy (Fualdes) Dugas, born May 11, 1833 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 635); died August 14, 1834, at age fifteen months (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 41, no. 36)

12. Anna Ophelia Dugas, born January 13, 1835 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 998); died March 5, 1836, at age fourteen months (SM Ch., v. 5, p. 55, no. 11)

13. Severin Onezephore Dugas, born February 11, 1837 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1236)

14. Jean Baptiste Desire (Ducre) Dugas, born July 18, 1839 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1665); married August 8, 1865 (SM Ch., v. 9, no. 378) Azema Moore of Lafayette, born about 1842; died November 10, 1893, at age fifty-one years (SM Ch., v. 6, p. 22), daughter of James Moore and Azema Dejean

15. Felicite Eleonne Dugas, born May 17, 1840 (SM Ch., v. 8, no. 1659)

K. Rosemond Broussard, born July 1799, baptized November 10, 1799, at age four and one half months (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 188); died January 12, 1820, at age twenty-two (SM Ch., v. 4, no. 1315)

L. Camille Armand Broussard, born October, 1801 (SM Ch., v. 5, no. 443); died March, 1846 (*Aftakapas Gazette*, v. VI, p. 16, March, 1971) Succession dated August 7, 1846 (SM Ct. Hse. Succ. no. 1106); married July 2, 1821 (SM Ch., v. 6, no. 252) Marie Elisa (Elizabeth) Dugas born about 1801; died October 1877 (*Aftakapas Gazette*, v. VI, no. 1, p. 16, March, 1971), daughter of Louis Dugas of Saint Martinville and Constance Leblanc of Saint James

M. Pierre Broussard, born August, 1804; died January 10, 1805, at age five months (SM Ch. v. 4, no. 391)

from the United States Army Corps of Engineer's  
**REPORT ON HURRICANE HILDA**  
**3-5 OCTOBER 1964**

**IN THE**  
**U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW**  
**ORLEANS**

Submitted by *Ron Bodin*

A weak circulation, destined to become Hurricane Hilda, developed on 28 September 1964 off the southern coast of western Cuba. It quickly reached tropical storm force after moving into the Gulf of Mexico near Cape San Antonio, Cuba. On 30 September, while moving on a west-northwestward course, Hilda increased to hurricane force. During the next morning, while located 350 miles south of New Orleans, the hurricane attained its greatest intensity with winds of 150 miles per hour and a central pressure of 27.79 inches. Decreasing slightly in intensity during the next 2 days, the hurricane took a gradual turn north and headed for the Louisiana coast. The eye of Hilda moved over St. Mary Parish about 6 p.m. CST on 3 October and butteted Franklin, Louisiana, the first town in its path, with maximum winds of 135 m.p.h. and brought a drop in barometric pressure to 28.40 inches. It then took a gradual turn to the northeast, leaving Louisiana by way of the Florida parishes--located north of Lake Pontchartrain--on 4 October 1964. The death toll within the state rose to 39 persons--24 were victims of the Larose tornado; 8 were victims of the Erath, Louisiana, water tower collapse; and 7 were victims of miscellaneous causes. Hurricane tides, up to 10 feet above m. s. l., and rains inundated 4,055,000 acres. Of this total, 955,000 acres were caused by headwater and 3,100,000 acres were due to tidal overflow. The hurricane necessitated mass evacuation of over 125,000 persons and disrupted transportation, communications, and utility service throughout the central and eastern coastal areas of Louisiana for more than 1 week. Damage estimates contained herein are limited to those occurring in flooded areas only.

#### History of the Hurricane

Hurricane Hilda, in her formative stage as a cyclonic circulation, developed on 28 September 1964 in the Caribbean Sea just off the southern coast of western Cuba. Upon crossing into the Gulf of Mexico near Cape San Antonio, Cuba, the disturbance quickly reached tropical storm force and advanced in a west-northwestward direction. By 30 September, Hilda had strengthened to hurricane force. On 1 October it was located approximately 350 miles south of New Orleans. During the same day, the hurricane attained its greatest intensity with maximum surface winds of 150 m.p.h. and its lowest central pressure of 17.79 inches. During the next two days, the hurricane took a more northerly course across the Gulf of Mexico while decreasing slightly in intensity.

Early on the morning of 3 October, Hilda sent forth a warning in the form of an advance squall line. Several tornadoes were generated from this squall line and touched down in Golden Meadow, Galliano, Larose, Kenner, Metairie, and New Orleans--all located in southeastern Louisiana. In Larose, the tornado, although lasting for less than 2 minutes, caused 24 deaths, 345 injuries, and complete devastation to more than 27 homes over a path of 1 mile.

While the havoc caused by the tornadoes was occurring in southeast Louisiana, farther to the west on the evening of the 3d, Hurricane Hilda was bearing down on the Louisiana coast. The hurricane, with an eye of approximately 30-35 miles in diameter, crossed St. Mary Parish between Marsh Island and Point au Fer. Accompanying winds of 100-120 m.p.h. reached out as far west as the Abbeville area, where, in the town of Erath, Louisiana, the force toppled a large water tower onto the city hall killing 8 civil defense workers. The 100-120 m.p.h. winds extended eastward to the Morgan City, Louisiana, area. Tides in the path of the hurricane were driven 10 feet above normal while the levels extending east and west to the Florida and Texas Gulf coasts, respectively, were 2 to 5 feet above normal before and after the passage. These high tides inundated

approximately 3,100,000 acres of land area along the Louisiana coast. An additional 955,000 acres of inundation resulted from headwater flooding along many inland waterways.

The first town to feel the onslaught of Hilda's full force was Franklin, Louisiana, where a mass evacuation of the residents had been accomplished preceding the hurricane. Here, maximum winds of 135 m.p.h. were reached, a barometric pressure of 28.40 inches was recorded, and rainfall in excess of 9 inches was measured. Although sustaining heavy wind damage, Franklin was spared from any serious flooding.

In neighboring Iberia Parish, a recorded rainfall of 17.71 inches fell and caused many sections of New Iberia, Louisiana, already battered by 100 m.p.h. winds, to be covered by water.

Having wreaked its greatest fury on the parishes of St. Mary and Iberia, the hurricane moved on a north-northeastward course passing over East Baton Rouge during the early hours of 4 October. Although Hilda had then dropped below hurricane force, her winds still caused substantial property damage to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the rainfall caused swollen streams to inundate sections of nearby Baker, Louisiana.

As Hilda continued across the Florida Parishes, the accompanying winds caused a tidal buildup of 6-7 feet above normal along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. This caused flooding in parts of the towns of Madisonville and Mandeville, Louisiana. During the afternoon of the 4th, a fast moving cold front from the north bore in and meshed with Hilda's rear guard winds, causing the waters to recede from the north and quickly shift to the south shore of the lake. Here, sustained wave action created by wind gusts of near hurricane force caused heavy damage to many fishing camps, boats, and several commercial establishments along the lakeshore.

As Hilda took an eastward path moving through Mississippi and Alabama, this backlash subsided. Although weakening to an extratropical storm, it still managed to spawn several small tornadoes in these states. It delivered heavy rains as it passed over northern Florida and southern Georgia on 5 October. The remnants of Hilda then dissipated out in the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Summary of Data Collected After the Storm's Passage

Barometric pressures and winds.-- The storm attained its greatest intensity on 1 October, about 350 miles south of New Orleans where reconnaissance aircraft estimated the maximum winds were 150 m.p.h. and the lowest central pressure was 27.79 inches. Sustained winds had decreased to between 100 and 120 m.p.h. (gusts to 135 m.p.h.) in the Morgan City--New Iberia--Abbeville area when the hurricane center crossed the Louisiana coast at St. Mary Parish between Point au Fer and Marsh Island, at about 6 pm on 3 October. As the eye of the storm moved from the Franklin--Baldwin area, the winds gradually diminished in force and a low barometric pressure of 28.40 inches was reported. Cold air from the northwest moved into the circulation as the storm passed through East Baton Rouge Parish on the 4th and the associated strong pressure rises forced the storm to make a turn to the east-northeast, with winds soon decreasing to less than hurricane force. With the intrusion of cold air, Hilda continued to weaken and change in structure as it moved eastward through coastal Mississippi and Alabama on the 4th and northern Florida and southern Georgia on the 5th.

Rainfall.-- As the center of the hurricane approached the shore on 3 October, the winds and rains increased. That night and into the next day excessive rains fell to the west and to the north of the path of the hurricane's center. The greatest amount of accumulated rainfall during Hilda's passage, 17.71 inches, was measured at the Jeanerette, Louisiana, Experiment Farm. It occurred between noon on the 2d and 9:00 am on the 4th. The greatest portion fell between 7:30 am on the 3d and 9:00 a.m. on the 4th when 16.01 inches accumulated; if it had fallen at a uniform rate, the amount in one 24-hour period would have been 15.07 inches. Hurricane Hilda's rainfall broke some station records for October and helped establish new rainfall records.

Storm Tide.-- On the 3d and 4th of October, before the hurricane reached the Florida Parishes, winds raised waves and pushed the water up on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish. About 2:30 a.m. on the 4th, the waters were 6 to 7 feet above normal. The causeway across Lake Pontchartrain was closed for a total of 12 hours because of waves and spray which occurred on the 4th. As the hurricane moved through the Florida Parishes, the rapid advance of cold air into the storm on the 4th was accompanied by abrupt wind shifts to the north and increased wind velocities. In most areas to the east of New Orleans, the strongest winds occurred after the cold front had passed, rather than in the southerly flow ahead of the low pressure area. The sharp increase in northerly winds across Lake Pontchartrain, with peak gusts exceeding 70



m.p.h., relieved the situation on the northern shores, but caused large waves to break and spill over the seawall along the New Orleans lakefront on the southern shore. Flooding occurred between the seawall and the back levee, and high waves caused considerable damage to fishing camps and some business establishments built over the water and on the lakeshore.

Hurricane tides inundated large areas of many coastal parishes as the storm advanced toward Louisiana. In Jefferson Parish, in the area of Lafitte, Louisiana, record stages established in September 1961, by Hurricane Carla were equalled. Large percentages of the land areas in St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Iberia, and Vermilion Parishes were flooded. Although a large part of the flooded areas consisted of marshland and woodland, considerable damage did occur to agricultural and pastureland, roads, bridges, homes, business places, the oil and gas industries, and other industries in the areas of tidal overflow.

Hurricane Surge Overflow.— High tides and headwater overflow caused by Hurricane Hilda inundated some 3,100,000 acres of coastal lands in southeast Louisiana and 955,000 acres of land bordering various inland streams in the southeastern part of the state.

Economic Data.— Tidal and headwater overflow from Hurricane Hilda caused flooding of parts of 27 parishes in Louisiana. The parishes were Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Lafayette, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemine, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, and West Baton Rouge.

The economy of the region ranges from commercial fishing, fur trapping, and various types of agriculture—including truck crops, orange groves, sugarcane, and cattle raising—in rural localities, to industry and commerce in the more populated urban areas. The largest concentration of the state's petroleum and natural gas production is located on the coastal marshland and in the offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico. The area is served by a deep draft navigation channel in the Mississippi River—Gulf Outlet, and shallow draft navigation is provided for by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and numerous other improved channels. The area is also served by railroads, pipelines, connecting Federal and state highways, and both national and international air transportation.

#### General Flood Data by Parishes in the Attakapas Region.

##### Iberia Parish

Approximately 49 percent of the 376,300-acre land area in the parish was inundated; 133,600 acres by storm tide, and 50,400 acres by headwater overflow. An estimated 15,400 cleared acres, 48,100 woodland acres, and 120,500 marshland acres, a total of 184,000 acres, were flooded.

The coastline of this parish is relatively short, and most of the tidal flooding occurred in the open and wooded marshland belt. Inundation of the higher cleared land by tide occurred along a fringe parallel to the coastline. Headwater overflow from Lake Fausse Point flooded areas around its shoreline comprised mostly of woods and marshland. A large area in and southeast of New Iberia was flooded by ponded rainwater.

Substantial damage was sustained by dwellings and their contents, business places, sugarcane and rice crops, cattle, pastureland, and utilities as a result of tidal and headwater overflow, flooding due to the excessive rainfall, and winds with velocities exceeding 120 miles per hour.

##### Lafayette Parish

Approximately 5,000 acres, less than 3 % of the land area, in this parish were flooded due to excessive rainfall. Most of this area lies to the east of Lafayette; some 300 acres were cleared and 4,700 acres wooded.

Damages in this vicinity were relatively light; a rise in stages on the Vermilion River flooded several residences in the city of Lafayette and one commercial establishment at the town of Milton.

##### St. Landry Parish

This parish lies some 50 miles west of Baton Rouge and borders on the Atchafalaya River. Headwater overflow created by excessive rainfall inundated 34,600 acres, or approximately 6

percent of the 595,200 acres of land area in the parish--about 100 acres being wooded, natural sump areas, primarily in the southern part of the parish.

Slight damage to agriculture accounted for the losses in this parish.

#### St. Martin Parish

The major part of this parish lies in the Atchafalaya Floodway southwest of Baton Rouge. Headwater overflow totaled about 86,300 acres, or approximately 19 percent of the 461,400 acres of land area in the parish; cleared area flooded amounted to 7,800 acres and 78,500 acres were wooded. The area outside of the Atchafalaya Floodway along the west borrow pit suffered flooding from heavy rains; other flooding was confined mainly to swamp areas.

Overall damages were relatively moderate and included mostly agricultural with light residential losses.

#### St. Mary Parish

The eye of Hurricane Hilda passed directly across the center of this coastal parish causing inundation of 261,800 acres, approximately 68 percent of the 387,200-acre land area. Tidal overflow covered 215,100 acres; 13,100 acres of cleared, 69,600 acres of wooded, and 132,400 acres of marshland. Headwater overflow covered 46,700 acres; 4,200 acres of cleared, 35,700 acres of wooded, and 6,800 acres of marshland.

With the exception of the Bayou Teche, Bayou Sale, and Bayou Cypremont ridges, most of the land area of the parish is composed of marsh or swamp. Much of the marsh or swamp lies to the south of the Teche ridge and the remainder is situated within the Atchafalaya Floodway.

The levee system of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway provided protection to an extensive area along the Bayou Teche ridge and the Bayou Sale ridge; however, considerable flooding resulted from ponding of rainwater within the leveed areas.

Practically all flood losses within the area were attributable to agriculture. Wind losses were extremely severe.

#### Vermilion Parish

The parish has a land area of 783,400 acres. Approximately 19 percent, or 146,300 acres, was flooded; 102,800 by tidal and 43,500 by headwater overflow. The area covered by tidal overflow comprised 400 acres cleared, 4,100 acres wooded, and 98,300 acres of marsh, while the area of headwater overflow comprised 16,600 acres cleared, 1,600 acres wooded, and 25,300 acres of marsh.

A major part of the parish rises only a few feet above sea level. A short distance inland and parallel to the coastline there are many ridges or chenieres which are generally 4 to 12 feet above mean sea level; north of these ridges there is a marsh belt which varies in width. The slope of the land elevation northward of the marsh belt takes place gradually until heights of 10 feet above sea level are reached.

The western limits of both tidal and headwater overflow extended into Vermilion Parish; overall losses in the flooded area were comparatively small, with agriculture comprising the large part of the total.

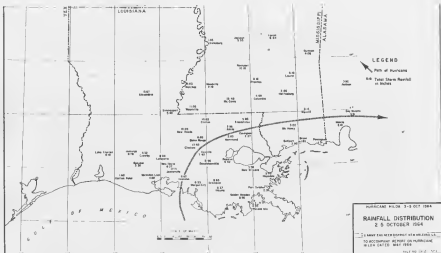
Offshore and onshore oil activities. - Losses approximating \$32,500,000 were sustained by the oil industry in their offshore and onshore exploration and production activities. The largest portion of these damages resulted to their offshore operations; nearly every platform in the hurricane's path suffered extensive damage by wind and/or high wave action. Six drilling rigs were lost and some 70 wells were damaged; more than 2,000 offshore workers had to be evacuated.

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"Climatological Data," Louisiana, Volume 69, Number 10, October 1964, U. S. Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau, Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

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From the Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Oct. 4, 1964:

The crash of the 40,000-gallon water tower on the Erath City Hall Saturday night which killed eight persons, almost took the life of a ninth except for the quick action of an Erath city councilman.

David Marshall Broussard, 19, had come into the building to relieve Scotty Bernard, a U. S. L. student, at the emergency radio. Broussard was hanging his rain coat on a rack when the water tower fell, smashing the building to rubble.

Broussard lay trapped under the debris as the water flowed over his head. Cleve Thibodeaux heard him yell for help and got a jack and pried the debris off his legs, pulling him to safety. Broussard said later he thought the building had been struck by a tidal wave.

Rescue workers labored through the night to remove the bodies, but were hampered by hurricane winds. Two cranes were sent to the scene during the night, but they were buffeted back and forth on the road by the high winds and didn't arrive at the disaster site until early in the morning.

Dr. L. J. Suire, mayor of Erath, said that most of the survivors of the crash had been standing in the doorway of the building when the tower plummeted 125 feet dead center through the roof. One man had his hand on a guy wire to the tower when he felt it suddenly go slack. He jumped just in time as the building was crushed to its foundation.

## ERATH WATER TOWER COLLAPSE



New Erath City Hall



Tribute to the eight civil defense workers killed

## VOUDOUX IN LOUISIANA

from *Louisiana Studies: Literature, Customs and Dialects, History and Education* published in 1894

by Alcée Fortier

In the Middle Ages astrology was considered a science, and sorcery was admitted. It is well known that when John the Fearless of Burgundy killed Louis of Orleans, the celebrated theologian Jean Petit proved to the poor Charles VI that John had rendered him a great service in killing his brother, as the latter had conjured the two devils, Hermas and Astramon, to harm the king, and they would have caused his death had not the Duke of Burgundy, like a deviled subject, saved his leige lord.

The religion of the Voudoux was based on sorcery, and, being practiced by very ignorant people, was, of course, most immoral and hideous. It is, fortunately, fast disappearing.... (But) the dances of the Voudoux have often been described, and were, according to the accounts, perfect bacchanalia. They usually took place at some retired spot on the banks of Lake Pontchartrain or of Bayou St. John.

Although this sect is nearly extinct, the negroes are still very much afraid of their witchcraft. The Voudoux, however, do not always succeed in their enchantments, as is evidenced by the following amusing incident. One of my friends, returning home from his work quite late one evening, saw on a doorstep two little candles lit, and between them four nickels, placed as a cross. Feeling quite anxious as to the dreadful fate which was to befall the inhabitants of the house, the gentleman blew out the candles, threw them in the gutter, put the nickels in his pocket, and walked off with the proud satisfaction of having saved a whole family from great calamities. This is how the Creoles fear the Voudoux!

The negroes are also very much afraid of the will-o'-wisp or *ignis fatuus*. They believe that on a dark night it leads its victim, who is obliged to follow, either in the river, where he is drowned, or in the bushes of thorns, which tear him to pieces, the Jack-o-lantern exclaiming all the time, "I have you."

The old negro who was speaking to me of the *ignis fatuus* told me that he was born with a caul, and that he saw ghosts on All Saints Day. He also added he often saw a woman without a head, and he had the gift of prophecy.

There are a great many superstitions among the people of Louisiana, but they may be common to all countries. They are however, interesting:

1. A person must come out of a room by the same door through which he came in; otherwise there will be a misfortune.
2. When a woman whistles, it makes the Virgin Mary weep.
3. A dog that howls at night announces the death of some one.
4. To kneel on the threshold is an omen of misfortune.
5. To pass a child through a window makes a thief of him.
6. When a fly bothers you it is a sign that you are going to receive a letter.
7. To dream of death is a sign of marriage; to dream of marriage is a sign of death.
8. When you cut a banana you cut the cross of Christ.
9. If you have a sore on the tip of your tongue, it is a sign that you have lied.
10. It is a sign of good luck to meet a person who squints.
11. If you carry an Irish potato in your pocket it will cure your rheumatism.
12. If a girl wears on her left leg a yellow garter which has been worn by a bride, she will marry during the year.
13. When you cut a snake to pieces, its friends come to get it to put the pieces together.

# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

Compiled by *Ron Bodin*

	1942	1958	1982
Population	19,210	50,300	89,754
Building & Loan Resources	\$3.5 million	\$45.5 million	1,500,000,000
Bank Resources	\$6 million	\$65.2 million	1,670,000,000
Retail Sales	\$8 million	\$65.9 million	1,690,677,000
Postal Receipts	\$86,373	\$583,586	12,215,430
Effective Buying Income	\$9.6 million	\$92.7 million	2,133,069,000
Gas Meters	2,900	16,388	Not available
Electric Meters	3,961	12,825	44,738
Telephones	3,400	25,942	46,163
Dwelling Units	5,065	12,908	38,999

## City Population History, 1940-1980

	1940	1980	
1940	19,210	1980	81,961
1950	33,514	1985	95,822
1960	40,400	1987	92,113
1970	70,835	1989	89,754

Sources: La. Tech. Estimates, Census Bureau, Lafayette Regional Planning Commission

## EARTHQUAKE AT OPELOUSAS, 1870

Submitted by *Carl Brasseaux*

Earthquake.--On Sunday last, the 9th, at about 5 o'clock in the morning, a few slight shocks were felt in our town. The weather was very calm at the time, and the shocks, oscillations rather, though quite perceptible, lasted only a second or two and caused no damage. This is the first earthquake which, within the recollections of "the oldest inhabitant," ever was felt in the region.

*Opelousas Courier*, January 15, 1870.

## TABASCO SAUCE

Submitted by *Carl Brasseaux*

Tabasco Petite Anse Pepper Sauce.--This is the name of an excellent aperient discovered and prepared by a gentleman well known here, Mr. E. McHeenny [sic], a great epicure. This Sauce has a very sharp taste, and its aromatic flavor cannot fail to please those who taste it. We recommend it to amateurs, those particularly who have no appetite and have something to eat. It may be found at Mr. Posey's drug store.

*Opelousas Courier*, December 18, 1869.

# ACCOUNTS OF BOOTLEGGING IN GROSSE ISLE, LA. DURING PROHIBITION

By Ron Bodin

Prohibition extended from 1920 to 1933 in the United States. Still today, fifty-seven years after the repeal of the eighteenth amendment to the United States Constitution that illegalized the sale and transport of liquor, informants are reluctant to discuss their bootlegging days fearing the long arm of the law can still "get to them." However, with assistance from elderly relatives and neighbors I was able to interview 1930s "bootleggers" and obtain the following accounts of bootlegging in Grosse Isle. Before the account, and to refresh the reader's memory, I have included a calendar of prohibition-related dates that might be of some interest.

- 1833--1st National Temperance Convention meets at Philadelphia
- 1846--state prohibition enacted in Maine
- 1851-1855--1st wave of state prohibition. Dry laws enacted in Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.
- 1856--New York state dry law held unconstitutional
- 1856-1903--all first wave states repeal dry laws
- 1880-1889--2nd wave of state prohibitionism in Iowa, Maine, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and South Dakota
- 1903--Bar is closed in the capital basement in Washington, D. C.
- 1907-1919--3rd wave of state prohibition adopted in twenty-nine states
- 1913--Webb-Kenyon Law bars the transportation of liquor into dry states
- 1914--U. S. House of Representatives passes a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment. 2/3 vote needed not obtained.
- 1917--Month following the U. S. entry into WWI, Congress bars sales of liquor to men in uniform
- August 1--U. S. Senate approves submission of the 18th amendment to the states
- December 17--the house concurs
- 1920--18th amendment (prohibition) goes into effect
- 1927--Bureau of Prohibition established
- 1930--Bureau of Prohibition transferred to the Justice Department
- 1933--21st amendment repeals the 18th amendment. Prohibition ends.

## What Prohibition?

Informants smile as they suggest that for all practical purposes there was no prohibition in the rural areas of Southwest Louisiana. True there were laws enacted prohibiting the sale and transport of spirits and there were Federal revenueurs searching for stills, but in the area were many independent distillers and when their operations were raided and eventually run out of business, there were home stills and home brews aplenty--enough to meet the needs of the thirliest in the area.

The keys informants suggest to getting around prohibition in the Grosse Isle area were keeping secret the locations of distillery sites which was assured by word-of-mouth information provided on a need-to-know basis only, and a sympathetic sheriff in Abbeville, the parish seat.

Vermilion Parish Sheriff Claude Broussard (1920-1930) was reported to have "winked" at bootlegging operations in the parish and that meant liquor was easier to produce and distribute with minimal local law enforcement harrassment. That opposition to prohibition, it is reported, was rather widespread in Catholic South Louisiana both among citizens and their elected officials; even one of the state's United States Senators, Edwin Broussard, was vehemently opposed to the eighteenth amendment.

To maintain distillery operations also required secrecy so that federal officials could not easily locate such operations. Word-of-mouth was used to keep the location of distillery sites known only to trusted people in the area. With the conservative nature of the locals and their reticence to open up to "outsiders," it was not difficult for residents of Grosse Isle to keep secret still site locations and to identify newcomers or non-Cajuns. Outsiders were simply not told of

bootlegging operations in the area. This fact may help account for the locals' success at maintaining one brew operation or another throughout the prohibition period. However, when loose lips compromised still locations, larger stills in the area were busted--especially after 1930.

Most informants acknowledge that although few formal bars or speak-easies operated in the area, liquor was almost always available either from distilleries or from home brewing operations. With the close-knit family units in the area, home-brew could fill the alcohol needs of an entire family without anyone outside of the family realizing the existence of the home brew. Informants report that it was clearly understood that home brewing was legal as long as the beer or wine produced was not sold.

And despite reports to the contrary, a number of local informants argue that the bar never completely disappeared. Instead of openly selling spirits, a number of bars in the area went into the business of hosting card players. Bootleggers supplied the thirsty gamblers' liquor needs--but no stocked bar existed. The pretense of being "dry" apparently was sufficient for most local law enforcement officials.

In Prairie Greig one of the area's largest and most profitable distilleries (housed in a nondescript barn) managed by Ovide Broussard at the Paul Maturin "place" was busted by Federal authorities and from that point on, locals abandoned area distilleries and activated a network of small stills often housed in warm potato sheds and home-brew operations to meet the area's demand for liquor.

All the while, ingenious plans were devised to conceal the gin, whiskey, wine and beer produced. False floor bottoms common in some homes since the Civil War had been used to hide from conscription men unwilling to fight in the rebel cause. These same false floors could be used to conceal a family's valuables from invading "Yankee" armies. During prohibition, these false floors made excellent hiding places for home-made "shine."

Grosse Isle, heavily wooded, provided it is reported by informants the camouflage needed for concealing a number of stills. Located in clusters of trees, these family run distilleries were often small operations providing a family or a neighborhood's liquor needs.

One interesting bootlegging account involves "Ban" Lachaussee of the Grosse Isle area who successfully hid and sold his barrels of liquor by burying them beneath his father-in-law's vegetable garden. Pipes leading to the barrels protruded up into the garden and these pipes were used as stakes to support vegetable plants growing in the garden. Used much like a straw, liquor was sucked (via pipes) up from the concealed vats as needed. The operation was never discovered.

Most informants agree that in the area liquor was sold by the jug or by the barrel as soon as the liquor had aged six months. "Raw," unaged liquor was consumed by people desperate for liquor or by unsuspecting clients who had purchased the brew from money-hungry bootleggers.

The Touchet family recalls that their father, addicted to wine, left home during prohibition for months at a time consumed in drinking splurges. When he returned home, it was usually in the winter when his wife and children had harvested crops and he proceeded to wrest away any money the sharecropper family had managed to earn for his purchase of alcohol. On one occasion while away from home drinking, Touchet convinced a couple of men in Abbeville that his family brewed gin and whiskey. Money exchanged hands and one morning his "customers" arrived at the Touchet home demanding the liquor they had paid good money to obtain. There was no liquor; there was no distillery; Touchet had lied to obtain money to finance his drinking. Mrs. Touchet ran off the men but a few minutes later saw them returning with guns. Frightened for her family's life, the mother rounded up her seven children--she and the older children carrying the youngest of the clan--and the family ran three miles along the railroad tracks to their nearest neighbors fearing all the while for their lives. Such could be the power of liquor and the tumult it could occasion.

However, most "bootlegger" informants who remember prohibition days in the Grosse Isle area smile broadly as they reminisce about those days when the clever were able to outfox the mighty Federal government and its eighteenth amendment to the constitution--those "good old days" when liquor flowed freely from the barns, the woods and the vegetable gardens of the area.



The most enduring monument to the traditionally harmonious relations existing between Lafayette's religious groups is the large obelisk and statue erected by the Jewish community in memory of Catholic Alexandre Mouton, who in 1883, donated two town lots as a temple and cemetery site.

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